

Mad God  
(狂神)  
Volume 02  
A Fallen Angel  
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Story Description:

In a world in which humans, beasts, demons, gods, dragons and pixies fight for supremacy; A series of wars started between the great Beamon warriors of the Beast tribe, the Dragon Knights of the Human Empire, and the Fallen Angels of the Demon Clan. A mixed blood child is born, bearing the blood of humans, demons and beasts, who is destined to restructure the chess pieces of the world. Follow Layson through his many trials and tribulations, as he develops into the greatest warrior the world has ever seen.

Original Story can be found here: [Link](#)

# Chapter 1: Jisue's Family

Teacher Zuang stood on top of the platform, facing all the students and said: "In one more month, it'll be the Annual Schoolwide Fighting Tournament. In this remaining month, I hope everyone will try their best and step up their game, I will pick the two strongest students from the whole class to represent our class in the competition."

Hosin asked: "Teacher, if we get ranked, are there any prizes?"

Teacher Zuang smiled: "Of course, the top three entrants of every grade will be rewarded with a piece of good equipment from the school, the higher one's rank, the better quality equipment they will receive. At the same time, if any one of you guys become the champion, I will also be giving a prize, but only if you are the champion. As for what prize is, currently it's a secret, but it won't be cheap. My expectations of you all are very high. Students, do not disappoint your teacher!"

Teacher Zuang's words stirred up the students' excitement, and everyone tried to outdo the other to show off their efforts.

I saw the flames in Hosin's eyes, but he didn't know Teacher Zuang had already decided on the participants long ago, his chance of getting the equipment is close to zero.

Fenjan stood up and proudly said: "Teacher, don't worry, if you send me to fight, I will definitely become the champion of the grade!" Seeing her proud chubby face, I couldn't help but laugh, this fat girl is pretty competitive.

After class, Fenwan looked for me and said: "Layson, how come I feel like you changed a lot after your confinement?"

I looked at him surprised, no wonder he is as strong as I am, he actually saw my growth, I calmly said: "Oh? What kind of change? I don't feel as though anything has changed."

Fenwan said: "There must be some change, although I can't say what I feel you aren't as cold as before, and in its place is more of an imposing

manner, now I'm afraid I'm no longer a match for you."

I smiled: "Perhaps you're being sensitive, I don't feel as if I had any change."

Fenwan looked at my smile, stunned: "You never smiled before, but now you do, how can you say that you did not change?"

I unconsciously touched my face, and realized that I was smiling. I realized that Jisue's influence on me was not small, even changing the way I act. I patted his shoulder: "Work hard, I hope that we will meet in this year's competition (the participants from the same class will be separated into different groups, they will only meet in the finals)."

Fenwan asked: "Layson, you're so confident you'll make it to the finals? You should know, our martial-magic class had always been at the bottom. The martial and magic specialized students usually fare better, since their concentration has been focused, their progress in combat ability is farther than ours."

I glanced at him: "Confidence is the best weapon, you'll see during the competition." These three months I have not only increased my strength, but also my confidence. In my heart there is only one opponent, and that is the fifth year's Liwa. Only he can truly call out my fighting spirit, perhaps I am not his match yet, but I have to see how big the gap is between us.

Fenwan said: "You chap, your arrogance is back, let's go eat together."

I shook my head: "I can't, already have an appointment."

Fenwan understood in a flash: "Ah, right, you are the first in school to chase after a girl so brazenly, you really impress me, if you have a chance, introduce a beauty to your brother, hue hue, I will not bother you anymore, I'll go look for Fenyun instead." It's all that big mouth Fenyun's fault, in the future I will not tell him anything.

I walked towards the dining hall, and saw that Jisue was already waiting outside under a tree. Her figure standing next to the tree was like a clean and pure lily, I hastened forward and apologized: "Just now a classmate

and I had a little chat, sorry to make you wait.”

Jisue gave me a sweet smile: “No problem, let’s go.”

I extended my hand to hold Jisue, but Jisue blushed and avoided it: “There are so many people here, don’t be like this, ok? Also the school doesn’t allow...”

I frowned and looked at her, helplessly sighing: “Alright, I’ll respect your choice.”

Jisue smiled: “Let’s go in and eat.”

The dining hall was as lively as usual, I had already become a celebrity within the school (for someone who dared to accept the number one fighter’s challenge, it would be strange not to be well-known, and also there’s also the thing with Jisue), once we entered the dining hall, many eyes turned over to look. I nonchalantly went to order my meal, I bought the best dishes for Jisue and bought myself two medium quality meals.

Seeing Jisue eating her food in small bites, I frowned “You eat too little, eat more, how can you have a healthy body otherwise? Look at me, one of my meals is almost what you eat in a week.” Saying so, I pointed at the mountain of food in front of me.

Jisue covered up her mouth and laughed: “If I eat as much as you do, how can that work? You’re bigger so you have to eat more, I am a girl, if eat too much and I’ll become fat, then you’ll not like me anymore.”

My complexion dimmed: “What kind of person do you take me, Layson, for?”

Jisue saw that I was not happy and hurried to say: “I shouldn’t have said that, I’ll eat more, OK?”

Hearing her say so, my face relaxed and I asked: “Right, what about that unruly girl who always followed you?”

Jisue looked around before saying in a small voice: “Lower your voice, she went back home to eat, but if she knew you said that about her, she’ll become angry again, yesterday you don’t know how difficult it was for me

to comfort her. Also, how much like a child can you be, still needing me to coax you, hehe.”

I smiled: “You are older than me, what’s wrong with coaxing me? That Jin whatever’s natural disposition is to be obstinate, and she won’t let anyone say that? It’s all because she was pampered from a young age. Why would you all go home to eat, are the food here not appetizing? I think it’s good enough.”

Jisue wrinkled her cute little nose: “The dishes at home are a little better than the food here, but the most important thing is that we don’t want to show our face in public too much. If we’re here, a lot of people look at us and we can’t comfortably eat our meals.”

I snorted: “Who would dare to look at you, I’ll tear him apart if they so much as glance at you.”

Jisue pressed my hand and hurriedly said: “What are you doing? You are being too reckless again. You can’t stop everyone’s eyes. Originally my older sister asked me to go home with her to eat lunch together, but you had already asked to meet with me.”

I doubtfully said: “Older sister? Which one?”

Jisue looked at me as if I am a freak and after a long time she said: “You don’t even know my great sister’s name? Are you ill-informed?”

I indifferently smiled: “Is your sister very famous? The school’s number one fighter doesn’t seem to be her.”

Jisue proudly said: “Of course she’s very famous, even though she’s not the number one fighter, but she is the schools’ number one beauty.”

I stared blankly, the school’s number one beauty, this seems a little exaggerated. If it is true, then this duke sure knows how to select his genes, both of his daughters are beauties. I ask “How many children do you have in your family? don’t tell me you still have some other ranked beauty?”

Jisue lightly hit me and lightly laughed: “No more, it’s only my older sister and me, there are many suitors asking for my sister, many who

aren't afraid of the school's rule. In the school they all chase after my sister openly, especially that Liwa, he's the most fierce of them all."

I suddenly realized: "No wonder yesterday he was so polite to you, so it seems that it was related to your sister. By the way, what's your sister's name?"

Jisue said: "My older sister's name is Jiyan, she is a third year student, and she practices light magic, she's also the favorite pupil of the vice-principal."

I was stunned, light magic, the more I hear the more uncomfortable I feel, I reckon it has to do my with dark magic, naturally they are opposing elements.

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Not bad, today I didn't run into any trouble and successfully ended a sweet meal with Jisue.

In the afternoon there were no classes, so I returned to the dorm to practice my arts of the Berserk God, Since I broke through the first level, the progress has been quite fast, although I am still a ways off from the second level, I am confident that I can break through before the start of the tournament. But the thing I was happiest about was the progress of my Demonic Arts, compared to my pace before, I could only use lightning speed to describe it, the third stage was supposed to be more difficult than the second, but my progress is even faster than before. At this rate, my transformation into a Fallen Angel will be a reality, what Liwa, I was not afraid. (Too bad this could not be used easily.)

The next day in the early morning, I pulled Black Dragon to go out of the school and go for a run when we ran into Jisue, I pleasantly said: "Being so good? To look for me so early in the morning, let's go, we can ride Black Dragon together."

Jisue came over and lightly caressed Black Dragon's big head, her face could not conceal her seriousness, I immediately realized something was not right and hurriedly asked: "What's wrong, did something happen?"

Jisue suddenly threw herself into my embrace and started to cry, I held her soft body and asked “Quickly tell me, what happened, did anyone bully you, I’ll go tear him apart.” Saying so, my whole body emitted with icy killing intent.

Jisue firmly pulled on my clothes and shook her head: “No one bullied me.”

I said surprised: “Then why are you like this?”

Jisue let go of me and lowered her head: “My father found out about us.”

I let go of my breath, and here I thought it was something big: “Something so small, miss, you scared me to death.”

Jisue stared at me with her big eyes: “This is not serious?”

I indifferently said: “What’s wrong him finding out, your parents are going to find out sooner or later, how did your father find out?”

Jisue sadly shook her head: “Maybe he has informers in the school, and you also made such a big fuss... You don’t know, but my father is very stubborn, if he feels you aren’t good enough, no matter what you say or do it’s all useless, yesterday night when I returned home he said dimly to me to bring you home tonight.”

Hearing Jisue’s words, I laughed: “Don’t worry, everything will be alright, with my qualifications, how could your father disagree, right? I’d never have imagined meeting your parents so quickly.”

Jisue said: “You aren’t even the least bit worried? My father is infamous for his violent temper!”

I coldly snorted: “You should also know, I am also not some good-tempered person.”

Jisue almost fainted, she became angry for the first time and was like a little lion, roaring: “You are going to meet my parents with this attitude? That is like going there to pick a fight, he’s my father... can it be you want to fight with him? With your attitude, how can I relax?”

Jisue’s face became a brilliantly flushed red, it was very cute, I pulled

her over and deeply kissed her lips, Jisue unhappily struggled but eventually was drowned in my enthusiastic kiss.

After a long time, I let go of a red-faced Jisue and softly said to her: “I promise I will not clash with your father, that is OK, right? Please don’t be angry.”

Jisue leaned on my chest: “You have to be able to do so, this concerns our future.”

I nodded: “Don’t worry, I promise to complete this mission.”

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Sitting in the classroom, I was distracted by tonight’s opponent – the Duke, this is a Dragon God Empire’s court official, who is on equal standing with a prince. At my side, Hosin suddenly nudged me, I turned to look at him and he whispered: “Layson, focus, Teacher Zuang looked at you several times already.”

I came back to earth, and sure enough, when I looked at Teacher Zuang, she gave me a rebukeful expression, I hurriedly apologized with a smile.

Very quickly, the students were dismissed at noon, Jisue already said she will not eat lunch with me, she needed to go home to arrange a few things, I don’t know what she needs to arrange, I reckon to pull more people onto our sides.

After eating lunch, I returned to the dorm to practice my Berserk God. To me, practice is the most important, because everything is established on true power.

After an unknown amount of time, Fenyun came over running and called me: “Layson, hurry, Jisue is looking for you.”

I finished one cycle of the Berserk God and breathed in deeply, pulling back my battle chi into my dantian then opened my eyes: “What time is it now?”

Fenyun said: “Look yourself, the sky is already dark. Hurry up, Jisue let me call you, she looked very anxious.”



Indeed, the sky outside was already dim, there was a sliver of light across the far horizon, it was already dusk, I nodded: "Thanks." Changing into the best outfit, I rushed out of the dorm, once outside I saw Jisue's face full of anxiety.

Jisue said: "Let's hurry and go, my father hates people who are late." She pulled me and ran outside.

On the way, Jisue said to me: "Later when you see father, make sure you have a good attitude."

I smiled: "Don't worry, I will try to rein myself in."

Jisue said: "Also, father will test your skill, you best prepare."

I said shocked: "What's your father's rank?"

Jisue looked at me: "Probably a mid-level Holy Knight, I haven't seen him battle for a long time."

I said surprised: "Then your father is not at the level of an ordinary Dragon Knight."

Jisue proudly said: "Of course, you think my father's dukedom came so easily? Even though he's a cultural official, but to reach his current position, naturally he needs the skill to protect himself. Even though it can't be compared to the 3 big marshals, in the capital he's a famous expert."

I frowned: "Then how can I compete with him. My strength doesn't exceed a Sword Master's." Even though I am confident, but I am not stupid enough to think I can contend against a Holy Knight.

Jisue laughed: "You also have times you're afraid, don't worry, my father will just test you at most, he will not fight you for real. We're here, let's hurry and go in."

I raised my head and took a look, we were already at the Duke's mansion. Calming myself, I followed Jisue inside the mansion.

It deserved to be called a place where the Duke lived, it's hard to tell how big the courtyard is from just looking at it, the walls were 12 feet

high, and entering the entrance, there were many patrolling guards. The courtyard could not be called gorgeous but is very elegant. One could tell from one look that the person who arranged this was no ordinary person.

Jisue said pleased: "My home's courtyard is not bad right, it was all arranged by my sister." Upon hearing Jisue's words I couldn't help but look forward to meeting the school's number one beauty. After all, a girl who is both intelligent and beautiful is hard to come by.

Jisue pulled a servant aside to ask: "Where is my father?"

The servant politely said: "The Duke is in the drawing-room, he instructed to tell you to go see him immediately."

Jisue replied: "I know, you can go now. Layson, father is waiting for us." I could feel her little hand was sweating, she clearly was very nervous.

I firmly held onto her hand: "Don't worry, I will make sure he approves of me."

Upon entering the drawing-room, we saw a wide hall, from my estimate, it was about 300 meters squared, there was one person sitting there, he seems to be about 40 something years old, his appearance was stately, I could imagine that when he was younger he must've been handsome. On the wall behind him hung a huge picture of nine dragons.. He was probably Jisue's father.

Sitting at the left of the middle-aged man was a beautiful woman, from looks it's hard to tell her age, but if someone told me she was Jisue's sister, perhaps I would believe it, only from her head accessories could I tell she was a married woman, perhaps, she is Jisue's mother. If so, it easily explained how Jisue and her elder sister could become two of the 8 ranked beauties.

Once I look to the right side, I couldn't help but be stunned, so beautiful, a beautiful girl wearing a light orchid long dress was sitting there, she was near my age, her looks were somewhat similar to Jisue's but she was even prettier than Jisue by many points, and her height was a little taller than Jisue's. When she saw Jisue and I walk in, she smiled at Jisue but did not even look at me, no wonder she was the school's number

one beauty, with an air of arrogance and hard to approach, to the point that what I noticed the most about her was that holy air, it was definitely a result of practicing light magic for many years, this was probably Jiyan.

This was what I observed in a split second, Jisue already ran over and said to the middle-aged man: "Father, I am back, this is Layson."

I hurried over and bowed politely: "Duke, this peasant, Layson, greets you."

The duke nodded his head, from his expression I couldn't tell whether he likes or dislikes me, he calmly said: "Lift your head."

I stood straight with my body, both eyes looking at the Duke. From the Duke's eyes passed swift and fierce light, he carefully sized me up, Jisue secretly gave her mom a look and the duchess said: "Sir, look at how good this child's body is, it's rare to see someone as tall and big as him."

Seems like the duchess doesn't have much of a status in this household, the Duke declined to comment and humphed, then said to me: "Layson, I heard you claimed in school that you want to pursue my daughter, is that right?"

I nodded my head: "Yes."

The duke frowned: "Then you should know, the Sky City Institute forbids romantic relationships."

I nodded again: "I know."

The Duke then stood up, and angrily mentioned briefly: "Since you know, I hope in the future you will not come bother my daughter."

I looked at the duke and replied: "I'm sorry, I can't do that." From my body emitted a cold and intense air, let me leave Jisue? Even if you are her father it's still not possible. My change immediately attracted everyone's attention, Jisue pulled at my clothes from behind.

The duke immediately became angry: "Who do you think you are, do you think you can match up to my daughter?"

I calmly smiled: "As for matching up, it should be Jisue's own

evaluation. Since you are the Duke, I think you would not belittle me just because of my background, if we go back 30 years ago, and you ended up liking an influential girl, what would you do, would you give up because of her father's words? People's status change along with the person, perhaps, 10 years, 20 years later, I would be at a position not any worse than yours." My tone was neither servile nor overbearing, but everyone was stunned, no one thought I would dare a head on confrontation with the duke.

Jisue said shocked: "Layson, you promised me before."

I thought, Jisue, how can you understand your father's way of thinking, if I bow and bend my knees, it will only cause him to look down on me. Even though my current method was dangerous, but at least there's a little chance.

The Duke extended his hand and prevented Jisue from saying anything further, he acted like I said some matter from his heart. He lowered his head, thinking about something I don't know about, after a while the duke raised his head: "Good, what you said was very good, since you are so determined, I will see if your strength allows you to say these words, watch out."

He first wave his sleeve and sent Jisue away from my side, then he gently struck his palm towards me, and a powerful battle chi shrouded me within a 10 feet range, he was trying to force me to take this head on. But I was not alarmed, actually I was happy, I knew he would definitely test me, but with his status as a duke, of course he couldn't use his full strength against me, since he attacked, my chance to retaliate also came.

I concentrated my chi and sent the Berserk God's battle chi to my right fist, my left leg stepped out one step, and I sunk my waist preparing to strike, yelling "Hah" and sent a punch over.

The battle chi rushed forth from my right fist, becoming a light yellow pillar hitting against the duke's right palm.

When the fist struck against palm I realized something was not right, the duke's battle chi was not sent out and was actually accumulated

inside, my battle chi touched his palm but did not cause him any harm. The fist and palm meet, but I feel the duke's battle chi was calm, from his palm came seven waves of explosions, one stronger than the next, and with us as the center the chi rolled out wildly.

Jiyan at this time was unusually calm, in a light shout came a light shield, enveloping me and the duke in the middle, although the battle chi struck against the shield, which was on the verge of collapsing, none of the chi escaped outside.

I stepped, and stepped, and stepped back continuously for 7 steps until I hit against Jiyan's shield.

From the duke's eyes came a trace of surprise and he let out a long laugh, his body quickly moved over and another palm came over, no wonder it's a Holy Knight's strength, it is truly very powerful, I hurriedly sent out every type of rank 1 attack magic I could think off (because it's low level magic, it could be casted quickly) in attempt to disturb the Duke, I also tried to concentrated my Berserk God's battle chi again, then shouted: "Hurricane." This time I did not move towards the Duke but instead heavily smashed against the ground, during the moment of danger, I already can't care about breaking things. Finally, for the first time, I could use the Berserk God's first form – Hurricane, this is also the only form I can use.

The Duke sent out his battle chi and easily ward off my magic attacks, he found that I did not meet his attacks and was afraid he would really kill me, he couldn't help but weaken his chi and lessen the strength on his palm by 3/10ths, at this moment, the ground in front of him suddenly cracked open, a powerful battle chi shot upwards in fragments and directly hit against his palm. It's not that I didn't want to burst the chi right below him, it's also not because I didn't want to strike from behind him, but because if I did this, then with his strength, I might not harm him, instead I might sent him into a fury. If strike from the front and at his hand, not only can it cancel the danger but it can also give the Duke a first impression, he will definitely understand, I am openly and honorably competing against him.

At the moment the Duke felt the ground split apart, he felt something was not right and immediately changed his attack to strike down, going against my Hurricane.

A powerful recoil made my whole body ache and split in pain, if not for my unusually high defense, I'm afraid I would have already been madly spraying blood.

This time because of his inadequate preparation to defend, the Duke was also shocked and stepped back once. A wild chi flow and the fragments successfully broke through Jiyan's barrier, the whole living room became enveloped in smoke.

I was wholly guarding, to prevent him from striking again, if he comes again, I'm afraid I would have to use the Demonic Arts, otherwise it would be hard for me to defend. That is a situation I least hope for.

The duke stood at the original spot and his body emitted a thick battle chi, forming a shield, isolating himself from the surrounding dust and smoke.

Jiyan immediately casted a defence magic to envelop herself and Jisue, from her eyes came an extraordinary splendor. The duchess used battle chi, a light orchid chi protected her.

The duke nodded towards me: "No bad, you can take 2 palm strikes with 5/10ths of my strength, in the young generation this is excellent. You should be one grade lower than Jisue, I estimate, your future potential is not lower than Liwa."

Fuck, Liwa again, why is everyone comparing me with him?

I said: "Thank you for your praise, now can you entrust Jisue to me?"

The duke laughed clearly: "When did I say I would entrust Jisue to you, your thoughts are too simple."

I angrily said: "You, you were just testing me, weren't you?"

The Duke said: "That was only a test of your skill, if you want to go out with my daughter, then you have to pass my test just now. Now you

barely pass, but, my daughter is still young, and the school doesn't allow romantic relationships, so, in the future you can't be excessively intimate with my daughter, do you hear?"

Hearing him say I barely passed, I couldn't help but sigh, at least he didn't oppose us.

I bowed politely: "Then thank you very much. In the near future I will not have 'excessive' closeness with Jisue."

The Duke nodded satisfied: "I am only temporarily giving you my approval, don't be happy too early, the future the development depends on you, if you can't satisfy my requirements, I can sever your contact with Jisue anytime."

I was shocked and foolishly asked: "Satisfy what requirements?"

The Duke chuckled: "It's not that easy to become my son-in-law, although your gift is not bad, your roots are very strong, but there's a gap between your actual strength. The future it depends on your hard work. Also, you wouldn't want me to let my daughter marry a commoner, right? Alright, we will not entertain you, someone, see off our guest."

Being sent out of the Duke's mansion by a servant I thought of the Duke's words, after a long time, I finished reflecting, I realised that I was tricked.

This XXXX, what kind of duke is this, he's basically an old fox, what did he say? He temporarily approves of me, what's the difference between that and not approving of me? And he still wants me to raise my strength, and then also become a court official, I'm about to faint, who knows what his standards are, he wouldn't want me to become a Dragon Knight, right?

Full of gloominess I returned to the dorm, to let my heart feel a little better, I practiced my Demonic Arts like normal. An ice-cold piercing feeling instantly calmed my heart.

The next day at noon, I saw Jisue at the dining hall and I complained to her: "Your father is too crafty, yesterday, he clearly had already tested me,

why did he also add so many requirements?”

Jisue smiled: “You think becoming official is so easy? For father to reach today’s position, I don’t even know how much effort he had to put in, if he went all out against you, you would not even be able to fight back. But don’t be angry, yesterday, after you left, father expressed to me that he admired you.”

I coldly snorted: “I don’t care whether he admires me or not, if you only admire me then it’s all good, if at that time he still doesn’t approves of us, then I’ll elope with you.”

Jisue became red: “Annoying!”

My complexion changed: “Can it be you’re not willing to leave with me?”



## Chapter 2: The Selection Battle

Jisue looked deeply at me: “Of course I agree, but my father only has my sister and I, if it’s not a last resort, it’s still better to not take this step, OK? For me, tolerate him a little more.”

I helplessly sighed: “It’s necessary that I raise my strength but to enter the court and become an official is not something I’m willing to do. I’m in a difficult situation.”

Jisue gently said: “Do what you want to do, I won’t force you, didn’t you say if we really can’t take it, then we can still....”

I grabbed Jisue’s small hands: “Thank you, Jisue. With your words, I’m not nervous anymore.” I couldn’t be an official in the Dragon God Empire, after all, I have the Beastmen’s blood in me. Not to mention, I’m also a spy.

In the following month, to increase my power to compete with Liwa, I decreased the time I met with Jisue and became wholly devoted to training. Jisue was very understanding, in this current society there is not one woman who does not hope their lover is the strongest. Finally, on the day before the competition, I successfully broke the level 2 of the Berserk God’s art, and I also learned the Berserk God’s 2nd Fist Style – Battle under the Heaven. My progress in the Demonic Arts were also very surprising, I already neared stage 3’s completion, but here I was stuck. No matter how much I tried I couldn’t get past the peak, the difficulty was even more than when I practiced the first level of the Berserk God’s. I was probably at the bottleneck, the time left already does not let me do a sudden breakthrough. The arrival of the competition is imminent.

Teacher Zuang stood on top of the platform and said to all the students: “The day after tomorrow, the school’s Annual Fighting Tournament will begin, next, I will confirm the two people selected for the competition. The students who want to participate please raise their hands.”

Maybe because everyone knew their own capabilities, there were only 5 people who raised their hands, these five people are, me, Fenwan, Fenjan,

Hosin, and Lolay. The most surprising was Hosin, with his strength, he could not surpass Fenwan and Fenjan, unless he join hands with his brother. He unexpectedly also hopes to join the competition. Lolay did not just stay idle during this semester, because he lost during the chief's battle to me, I heard from Fenwan that this fellow trained to the utmost and his strength also increased greatly.

Teacher Zuang smiled: "Since there are 5 students willing to enter this competition, then, we will hold a few matches here and everyone will be the judge."

Fenjan stood up: "Teacher, I am this class's chief, does that mean I can avoid the competition, since I am the number one in this class. Let the four of them compete, then the winner will be selected along with me." No way, isn't she too shameless.

Teacher Zuang said: "I'm afraid this can't do, through a semester's worth of training, everyone has different rates of improvement, I hope the five of you can fight fairly."

Fenjan resentfully said: "Then you tell us, how are we going to compete?"

Teacher Zuang said: "I already thought of the subject of the competition, each part is: strength, speed, and endurance. All the other students will give points to each of you, a full score is 100, the first will get 100 points and the rest will be graded based on the gap from the first. The two students with the top score will represent us and enter the competition. Does anyone have any objections?"

Hearing the teacher say so, Fenjan immediately smiled and did not express any objections. She was very confident in her strength and speed, although she was fat but everyone had seen her terrifying speed. I along with the others also did not have any objections.

Teacher Zuang said: "Since everyone agreed, then good, in the afternoon everyone gather in training field #4, and the battle will start from there."

Training field #4 again, this is the first place where I had to be sent to the infirmary.

Recess for noon just passed, our four classes of Martial-Magic students all gathered there, Teacher Zuang announced: “The competition will begin soon, the students who wish to enter the tournament please step forward. The first round, Test of Strength.”

Fenjan stood to the front full of confidence, clearly wanting to win this competition. To Teacher Zuang she said: “Teacher, tell us, how are we going to test?”

Teacher Zuang said: “We had prepared earlier, God of Dimensions, I plead with you, please deliver our formation items.” Both of her hands waved, and in midair drew a golden hexagram which then followed her hand gestures and float on top of the ground. In a flash of light, there were suddenly 5 iron balls past the size of 2 meters that appeared on the field.

Teacher Zuang said: “The main point of this strength test is to measure your strength in a short moment, the requirement of the test is to damage your own iron ball as much as possible. You only have one strike, the iron ball is magic-enhanced. Remember, if you hit the iron ball to the ground, it’s not valid, the body of the iron ball itself needs to be damaged, I will help you calculate the damage rate, the one who damages the iron ball the most will be this test’s winner, understand?”

The five of us replied together: “Understood.”

Fenjan said: “Teacher, let me go first.”

Teacher Zuang smiled and nodded her head: “Alright, then you’ll start first.”

Fenjan held the iron hammer in her hands tightly and walked to the front of the iron ball. Then extending out her muscles, both of her hands with the hammer began to whirl around, the massive hammer in her hands seemed as if it’s weightless, in a short moment, Fenjan’s speed reached her limit and gradually we couldn’t see her figure clearly, suddenly from a round whirl she flew up from the ground and loudly shouted: “Large Hammer Whirlwind, break.” A shadow of lightning headed towards the iron ball.

Boom! The shock made everyone's sense of hearing numbed, although it did not break through the protecting barrier, but the originally big iron ball turned into a half-ball, the strange part was, a strength this big did not strike the iron ball into the ground, it is definitely impressive.

Only I saw clearly, just now Fenjan's figure when in midair suddenly sent out some battle chi and cushioned it under the iron ball, one could say it propped the iron ball up and that's how this result came to be. However, because the dispersal of power the iron ball did not break.

Teacher Zuang said amazed: "Damage rate 50%, Fenjan, you did very well."

Sweat could be seen slightly from Fenjan's temples, clearly that moment just now consumed a lot of her strength and hearing Teacher Zuang's words, she proudly said: "Of course, teacher, my position as the chief came from real power." Saying she's fat, she really take it as a compliment, really.

Teacher Zuang said: "Then who will be next?"

Hosin said: "Teacher, I'll do it." Saying so, he took out his long sword and walked over.

I asked Hoxin who was next to me: "What's the deal with your younger brother, doesn't he know his own strength?"

While watching his brother walk over, Hoxin replied: "My brother suffered a lot of hardship recently to train one skill, although he might not be able to step above everyone, but it will definitely shock you, just you wait and see."

Hosin changed from the former day's complications and with a grave expression he walked to an iron ball, he narrowed his eyes and with both hands holding his long sword, he chanted: "The Great God of fire, please ignore the surrounding fire elements, let the endless flames become my shield." Red flames along with Hosin's chant began to surround him, becoming stronger and stronger. Hosin who was standing in the center was like a flame god, quietly standing there for a long time.

Hosin suddenly shouted: “Breakthrough all binds, Holy Flame.” The red flames slowly turned into a white color, becoming an intense light, much like using flame magic.

Hosin suddenly open his eyes, in his eyes taking in all. Both of his hands gradually lifted the tip of his sword from bottom to top, a very light weighted longsword seemed in his hands as if it had ten thousand burdens, seemingly looks as if it takes a lot of effort. I could clearly see Hosin’s sweat become vapour from the white flame.

I said curiously: “With Hosin’s strength, ordinarily he shouldn’t be able to command such a strong flame.”

Hoxin leaned near my ear and whispered: “My brother has our family heirloom, it can protect the body and it’s called Fire-Resist Talisman. He is using this to protect himself, he could resist the reverse effects of the flame and in this way he can use upper level magic, although it takes a lot of effort, but it’s doable. You have to keep this a secret for him.”

I said: “Why did you tell me, now I am Hosin’s opponent.”

Hoxin smiled: “We are brothers[Layson and him], why should we keep secrets, my brother only came here to show off. After he uses this, he will not have enough strength to go on to the next test. He only wants to prove himself, he’s also very competitive.”

In this test, Hosin finally raised the long sword up above his head, using both legs and jumping up highly, he shouted: “Bright Flame Chop.” A white light of brilliance followed his long sword like a chain and flew out, the iron ball in the front under his strong attack, in a flash was divided into two.

I said to Hoxin: “This technique is really not bad, it’s attack is super strong, too bad the cast time is too long, if we were opponents, I will definitely not let him have a chance to show this technique.”

Hosin used his sword to support his body, gasping he asked the teacher: “Teacher, how many points did I get out of a 100?”

Astonished, Teacher Zuang could not close her mouth: “Hosin, you

could actually use such a strong magic, you broke the barrier and separated the iron ball into two, you can say it's 100 out of 100 points."

Hosin's face upon hearing the teacher's words showed a proud expression, his body then became slanted and he fainted directly onto the ground.

Hoxin quickly ran over to hold him up.

Fenjan then ran her mouth: "He overestimated his own power, not knowing to save his strength, if just now I used my full strength, humph, I'll definitely also get 100/100 points."

Fenwan was the third to go, he was simple, he used the spiral swordplay which was used against me before to successfully pierce the iron ball's defense barrier, but because there was not enough strength, it did not break the iron ball, but since the barrier was broken, Teacher Zuang gave him 80 points out of a 100.

Lolay tested as the 4th one, from somewhere he pulled out a pike, from looks, the quality is even better than the one he had before. Lolay used the same way as Fenwan, also a penetrating attack, except his power was weaker than Fenwan's and Lolay's magic under this condition did not show its true strength (of course, it means his level is still not good enough). At the end he did not break the barrier but left a hole on the iron ball. Teacher Zuang gave him 30 points out of 100.

Finally it was my turn, I walked naturally to the last iron ball, and standing in front of it, I circulated my Berserk God battle chi which was already at the second stage. My body gently jumped up and arrived at a high angle from the iron ball, then gently a palm pat against the iron ball (I learned this from father-in-law, although before when fighting it seemed world-shaking with a very good feeling, but I still feel it's not as natural and elegant as father-in-law's, that's why today I changed the style), the iron ball fell to the ground from what seems like a light palm strike of mine.

Fenjan saw this and laughed out loud, shouting: "Handsome, you can't just use brute force, this is useless, I'm guessing you won't even get 1

point out of a 100.”

Seeing her I became annoyed, giving her a look, I said in a cold voice: “Shut your stinky mouth, look at it yourself.”

Hearing me curse at her, Fenjan immediately wanted to flare up, but soon she became dumbfounded by the sight before her eyes, the iron ball which originally fell on the ground from my strike in a flash blew to pieces, with a sound of boom the training field exploded with a big hole and the iron ball disappeared, only on the ground there were scattered iron pieces. Just now I used Hurricane, except I condensed the battle chi into one and from where I hit it to the explosion will come, the iron ball under my battle chi and opposing attacks, if it did not turn into fragments then it would be strange.

I said very fiercely to Fenjan: “I wonder if it’s a meatball like you or is’t the iron ball that is harder.”

Fenjan became scared under my strong power and continuously said: “The iron ball is harder, the iron ball is harder.”

I snorted satisfied and returned to our group.

While Teacher Zuang looked at me as if I’m a monster, she announced: “Layson, damage rate: 100 out of a 100.”

While Hoxin took care of his brother, he said to me: “Lay, you are awesome, your strength grew by so much.”

I indifferently said: “Strength was originally my forte, this is nothing.”

Teacher Zuang announced: “The first round of testing ends, Hosin and Layson are both number 1 with a damage rate of 100 out of a 100. If nobody has any objections, then the first round will follow a calculation from 100 points.”

Fenjan did not get the highest accumulated points and felt very resentful, but I stood there and she did not dare say anything. She knew, I would definitely take the top spot, she could only try to be number 1 in other tests, although Hosin also got a 100 points in the first test, but with his body he could not continue. Currently not doing any calculations,

Fenwan's first test was 80 points, still higher than hers by 30, she could only try to catch up to him. Inwards, Fenjan secretly tried to hold herself back.

Teacher Zuang said: "Alright, next we will begin the next test, from here to the school entrance there is less than a 1000 meters difference, whoever can use the quickest speed to complete 3 back and forth's, then they will be first, which student is willing to be in charge of the school entrance supervising."

Lolay suddenly said: "Teacher, I will withdraw from this competition, then let me go over and supervise." Lolay saw my strength just now and was inwardly shocked and gave up in planning to compete with me, in the strength test he was the last, it seemed very uncertain to advance in rank, so why not be more generous and withdraw himself.

Teacher Zuang said: "Since you willingly withdrew from the competition, then you can go supervise the school entrance."

The three of us left stood at the starting line, under Teacher Zuang's whistle, immediately 3 bodies flew out like an arrow.

Fenwan took the lead and Fenjan followed tightly from behind, I fell to the back, I used a flying technique and tried to lower my body weight as much as possible. Despite so, it couldn't compare to Fenwan's wind magic which he grew up practicing, and Fenjan, I don't know how she did it, her figure was only at my waist and her weight was past mine, but her movements were unusually swift, she was practically like a bouncing meatball.

The 3 back and forth's ended very quickly, Fenwan naturally got 100 points, Fenjan 80 points, and I sadly only received 50 points.

After these two tests, Fenwan stood up top with accumulated points of 180, I had 150, then Fenjan with 130 points.

The third test is also the last, competing with endurance, Teacher Zuang said: "The last test, to ensure fairness, I specially invited the 3rd year Magic-martial students to help you guys with the test." Saying so she extended her hand to the air and drew a small hexagram, seems as if she



was using close by information transmitting space magic.

Third-years? What test will they give us?

After a short while, from the outside came 9 people, from looks, they were definitely not weak. Teacher Zuang said: "These are your seniors from the 3rd year, for the last test they will do the examination, they will attack in teams of 3 against each of you. These 9 students all went through serious selection from the third-year martial-magic teacher and I, their strength is average and this is definitely fair."

Fenjan couldn't help but ask: "Teacher, how will these seniors test us?"

Teacher Zuang smiled: "It's very simple, each of you will try to withstand the 3 seniors' attacks, and whoever last the longest will be the winner."

I almost fainted, 3 against 1, and the opponents are seniors, we have to thank Teacher Zuang to think this up.

Teacher Zuang said: "OK, then we'll begin, to ensure fairness, the 3 groups will attack at the same time."

Fenjan's hands held her large hammer and with a loud shout dashed over, her imposing dash forward really made the 3 seniors in charge of exchanging blows with her jump.

Fenwan was much more polite, he said, seniors please take care of me and quickly moved over.

As for me, I firmly walked over one step at a time, my whole body emitting a strong aura. Out of the 3 seniors against me, 2 were magic-martial students, and the other one used a strange bladed weapon, the look was very odd, it was two big and long claw-like thing which covered his hands. Seeing me walk over, this senior wearing iron claws was the first to attack, after a long hiss he jumped to the sky, both hands extended out like a saintly eagle. The other two seniors also waved their magic swords and dashed towards me.

No wonder they were 3rd year students, their true strength was much higher than our class, if one-on-one, I probably could win, but 1 against 3,

it's hard to say. From my hand went a few ice cones to the senior up above, and quickly treading forward, a fist was thrown.

The senior above's claws suddenly sent out two waves of lightning, smashing the ice cones I just threw out to pieces, as if nothing had changed he continued to pounce on me, but since I treaded forward a step, he struck against my back instead.

I was shocked at his speed not being decreased even a bit, the palm strike I threw out forced the fire sword magic senior on the left to withdraw, but it became a situation where I was sandwiched front and back. I clenched my teeth: "Hurricane." Then I punched heavily on the ground. My target was the senior in the front. At the moment my Berserk God's battle chi rushed up from under his feet, he probably discovered the waves of the chi and rapidly leapt up, trying to avoid my attack. This Hurricane of mine was meant to attack from the front, although he avoided a direct attack but he could not avoid the aftermath. The ground loudly exploded, the wild chi mixed together with the fragments blasted to the front, completely surrounding the one senior who was forced to withdraw and the one who had to jump one. The two desperately tried to brandish their magic swords to block off the chi-enhanced fragment attacks.

Although I achieved a good result from this Hurricane attack, but from the back I received a hit from the senior. In the instant he clawed at me, my body hurriedly flash past, withstanding most of the attack's power, at the same time I used Armor of Thunder Heavens and sent out my Berserk God's battle chi.

A sharp chi drew out stabs of pain from my back, immediately followed was a wave of paralysis. Ah, his attack carried the lightning property. I lowly groaned and turned to grab at his iron claw, this senior was very flexible, although he was shocked at my defense but his reaction was not slowed at all. When he attack hit, he rapidly soared up, just avoiding my counterattack.

I snorted angrily and casted a flying technique on myself, my body becoming more agile, the tip of my foot hit the ground and my body

dashed forward to the two seniors who were flustered still from my Hurricane attack. Even though these two seniors were not weak, but they could not completely block off my full attack just now, these two both received minor injuries.

My biggest advantage was my strong battle chi, I have to take advantage of when they haven't gather together yet to attack, when I beat two of them then I will have a chance to win. However my plan did not go accordingly, the senior in the sky chopped at me with a wave of lightning. When I reacted it was too late, the lightning accurately hit my body and an intense paralysis made me lose track of all senses. At the moment, the Demonic Arts came into big use, an ice-cold feeling circulated through my whole body, and I recovered in a very short time. Now I am an unusually sorry figure, the clothes on my back was torn apart from the senior's iron claw, then followed with a lightning strike, most parts of my clothes were charred black, and all strands of my hair stood up.

The two magic sword seniors treaded forward, and one of them said: "Junior, admit defeat, although you are strong, but under our combined attacks, you don't have any chance."

I sneakily looked over to Fenwan and Fenjan, both of them were still continuing. Fenwan was too sly, he made use of his superiority in wind magic, he did not directly confront his opponents at all, borrowing his nimble body it was a game of cat and mice. Fenjan's side was even more terrifying, she was like a wild tiger (tiger mom?), waving around her big hammer creating a whirlwind, the few seniors over there could really do nothing to her, if I admit defeat now I would be in danger of being eliminated, no way, I still have to battle with Liwa, how I can easily admit defeat.

I coldly snorted: "Come, I will not admit defeat. Hurricane." Again, my first heavily struck against the ground, intimidating the two seniors to rapidly dash back to try to avoid my abnormal attack. But they thought wrong, this time I wasn't trying to get them but it's for the Lightning Eagle behind me (I gave him a nickname).

The senior behind me electrified me just now and thought I would

definitely admit defeat, but he did not expect I would be so tenacious, he just decided to continue his attack and the ground in front of him split opened, a powerful battle chi rushed towards him. My body also followed the battle chi and dashed towards him. This Lightning Eagle senior showed his real strength in the critical moment, while flying back he chanted: "God of Thunder, take the abrupt earth, come out, Dark Thunder Wall." In front of him quickly condensed a wall of flickering electricity, not only did it cancel out my battle chi, but it also prevented the fragments from going forward.

When he withstood Hurricane, I also arrived and I attacked with a heavy fist, because my hand was enveloped in Berserk God's battle chi, also his Dark Thunder Wall just withstood my Hurricane and already spent all its power, it was easily broken through by me.

Senior crossed both of his claws in front of him in attempt to withstand my punch, I coldly snorted, and my battle chi exploded, senior produced a sad and shrill scream and was expelled away from my attack. I guess he won't be able to fight for a few days. This is still when I was being lenient on him, otherwise, even if he did not die, both of his arms would have been crippled. Who told you to strike at me with lightning, this is called an eye for an eye. This was all completed in the instant when the electric light came out, when the two magic sword seniors reacted, Lightning Eagle senior was already heavily struck against the training field's barrier walls.

After I disposed of him everything was much better. When I wanted to continue to fight with the other two seniors, Teacher Zuang's voice sounded: "Layson, stop, you already won." I stared blankly and turned my head, Fenjan's big hammer was already struck away and she was sitting on the ground circulating her chi. Fenwan was not much better than her, his clothes were also charred like mine, he also lost some hair, but it wasn't from electricity but from fire. Turns out, Fenwan dodged just earlier while thinking, he would definitely be first, no one would hit him, he only had to hold out until Layson and Fenjan was struck out from the attacks. However, his swift movements angered his opponents, two

seniors wrapped around him while the other senior who was good at fire magic used a fire staff to cast a high level omni directional fire magic, taking care of Fenwan. When he was being taken care of, it was at the moment when I struck senior Lightning Eagle away, Teacher Zuang already saw I won and was afraid I would get hurt so she immediately stopped the test.

The one who was the most unfortunate and injured the most was Lightning Eagle, Teacher Zuang after announcing Fenwan and I will be entered for the tournament, immediately used water magic to heal him. The other two seniors who fought with me walked to my side, the fire magic sword senior said: "Junior, not bad, the three of us joining hands still ended up in such a sorry state, looks like, this grade's champion will definitely be you."

The seniors' strong real strength also won my respect, I politely said: "This is all because our seniors went easy on me, that Lightning Eagle senior, later on I'll have to trouble you two to help me explain, I really could not hold back."

The two seniors looked at each other and smiled: "Layson, this nickname really suits him, he is called Pakrui and is the strongest amongst us. The two of us are weaker in comparison so we are grouped together, he is also representing our class to enter the tournament, in the future if you have the opportunity you will fight together again. Don't worry, he will not blame you, he loves making friends with strong people."

I said worried: "Then won't his injuries affect his participation in the tournament?"

One senior said: "It won't, this fellow's bones are very hard, also teacher Zuang is treating him, he will definitely be fine."

Except for Fenjan who left groaning, the other students congratulated Fenwan and I. Even Lolay came over and said to me: "Layson, I admit I am indeed not your match, but, you have to be careful, I will continue to work hard, and there will be a day, I will defeat you."

I smiled: "Anytime. That Lightning Eagle senior is pretty worth it for

you to learn from, if not for luck, I wouldn't have been able to defeat him." Lolay's eyes lit up at my words and he turned to leave.

Teacher Zuang broke up our group and called Fenwan and I to the office.

Teacher Zuang smiled and said: "How is it, don't I have sharp eyes? I just knew you two will defeat the others."

Fenwan smiled bitterly: "Teacher, our win this time did not come easily, look at Layson and I, we are two charred people." Fenwan and I looked at each other, saw each other's sorry state and bursted into laughter.

Teacher Zuang said: "Alright, both of you stop laughing, asking you to come here, the main point is to direct you in your battle techniques."

Turns out she wants to instruct us on our techniques, Fenwan and I immediately became serious, Teacher Zuang continued: "Fenwan, do you know at the end what you lost in?"

At a loss, Fenwan said: "The opponent's magic was too strong, it was an omni-directional attack, I couldn't avoid it."

Teacher Zuang lightly shook her head: "That's not right, the reason you lost was because you weren't fast enough, today Teacher will teach you 3 words, if you can understand it then you will be invincible."

Fenwan said surprised: "Which three words?"

# Chapter 3: Grade Champion (or champion of the grade)

Teacher Zuang said: “Be swift as the wind.” [TL: in chinese it is 3 words]

Fenwan mumbled: “Swift as the wind, swift as the wind.”

Teacher Zuang turned and said to me: “Layson, although you didn’t lose today, you always exhaust yourself during your fights, you aren’t able to take advantage of your body’s superiority.”

I said shocked: “I didn’t use my superiority?”

Teacher Zuang nodded: “Do you remember the first fight you won in the battle for the position of cheif?”

I said: “The one against Hoxin?”

Teacher Zuang said: “That’s right, do you still remember how you won?”

I nodded: “Of course, I purposely took his hit and then threw him off the arena. Are you trying to say...”

Teacher Zuang nodded: “That’s right, although I don’t know what battle chi you have been practicing, but I can see that your body’s defense is very high. Your natural physique added to the astonishing defense of your battle chi defense has so much potential, but you waste it. My three words to you is – Steady as a mountain. Speed is not your forte, instead focus on your strength and defense, understand?”

I nodded my head happily, Teacher Zuang’s words made me feel as though everything in my head had cleared up, as if I caught on to some profound truth. [ED: Just for all those CD fans out there (I added profound into the text)]

Both Fenwan and I were still pondering on Teacher Zuang’s advice as we left her office. Just outised the office building, we ran into a group of first years from the magic track, upon seeing our condition they started laughing at us.

“Look, aren’t those two from that dumb class? How come they look like

this, it looks as if they were electrified by lightning magic and then they were burned by fire magic.”

“I’m guessing they did something bad and a teacher punished them.”

.....

Fenwan and I lifted our heads up, Fenwan whispered: “This is too embarrassing, let’s hurry and return to our dorm.” Both of us each made a strange hiss, scaring the students watching from the side and we hurriedly ran back to our dorm.

I took a quick shower and changed into a clean set of clothes, Fenwan and I finally let out a sigh, he said to me: “Old Lay, I can’t hold up anymore, I’m so tired, I need to go rest.” When did I become “Old Lay”, am I that old?

I nodded: “Bye, I am also going back.”

Fenwan smiled: “The tournament will start the day after tomorrow, let’s do our best.”

I said: “You too, I hope that I will run into you during the grade-wide matches.”

On the way back to the room, I thought about Teacher Zuang’s words, “Steady as a mountain,” how can I make full use of my body’s high defense?

“Layson, you’re back.”

I turned and took a look, and saw that it was Jisue, I smiled at her: “You waited for me here?”

Jisue nodded: “It’s already so late, don’t you usually return early in the afternoon back to the dorm to practice? I asked Fenyun, he said he didn’t see you.”

I answered: “We held a test in class today to select our participants for the end of the term tournament.”

Jisue held on to my arm: “You were selected, weren’t you?”



I pinched her cute little nose: “Why do you have so much confidence in me? There are many people with great strength in this school.”

Jisue said: “I believe in only you, because you also have great strength.”

I nodded: “Then what about you, are you going to join the tournament?”

Jisue said: “My magic level is not that high, how can I participate in the tournament. (Jisue is a 2nd year magic class student, mostly practicing water magic.) Older sister entered for the 2nd year competition, but her light magic is very famous.”

I smiled: “She is the brilliant student of the vice-principal, it’s inevitable she’s going to participate.”

Jisue wrinkled her small nose: “Sister didn’t rely on her connections to join the tournament, she entered based on her true strength. But Layson, If you become the grade-wide champion, are you really going to challenge Liwa?”

My face darkened: “Definitely, if I become the grade-wide champion, I have to challenge him, if I run from him, it’ll affect my future practice, especially my mentality.”

Jisue sighed: “Although you are very strong...”

I smiled: “What, do you also look down on me?”

Jisue hastily shook her head: “It’s not like that, I absolutely believe in you, but Liwa is the number 1 fighter in the whole school, and he’s not that easily defeated, I’m worried that you might get hurt.”

I said: “No need to worry, I’m very thick-skinned. If anyone wants to hurt me, it’s not that easy. Relax, even if I don’t win, nothing will happen to me.”

Jisue nodded: “Alright, if you can promise your safety, I will be at ease.”

Sending Jisue off, I returned to the dorm, continuing to mull over Teacher Zuang’s words...

Two days later, a term closing ceremony was held. It was just a formality of the academy, It talked about how the students worked hard

this semester and how they hope that everyone will continue to work hard and become stronger while taking even bigger steps towards improving themselves.

After the closing ceremony, Janfen, the Director of the Teaching Department, walked onto the platform and announced: "The Sky City Institute's Annual Martial Tournament will now begin, all the participants of each grade should head to their appointed match."

Today is the first round of the competition, the rules are very simple, 12 people will separate into two groups, (the grades with 5 classes will have 10 people separate into 2 groups), then the top two students in each group will be chosen to qualify and participate in the playoffs. That is, if I think it is necessary to participate in all seven rounds to become the grade champion. [ED: not sure what this is supposed to mean, maybe the director can select the grade-wide champion based on what he sees?]

Fenwan and I were separated into two different groups, I looked around for a familiar face, But I have never seen any of the participants in this group before (since entering the school and becoming injured, I've been in confinement, so I have not seen a lot of people), Teacher Zuang called Fenwan and I to her side, instructing us before the fight: "You two have to be careful, Layson, if you run into the fighting class it will be easy for you to take care of, but for the magic classes you have to be careful, the students of the magic classes usually has some strange magic up their sleeves, take caution. Fenwan, as for you, you have to fully bring out your speed, you can't give your opponent a chance, using the shortest time to get the best result, although the number of classes I've taught isn't high, I know that you are the most talented first year students I have ever seen, don't make teacher be disappointed."

I nodded my head firmly, turning to go to my own arena.

Since it's a round-robin tournament, our two groups will hold three rounds of competition today, the competition begins at the same time, and my first opponent is from the warrior class, from his looks he seems very tough, with a height around 180cm, his whole body is packed with shocking muscles.

The referee called us to the front: “Martial-magic class Layson vs Warrior class Xili. The rules are very simple, you can’t strike aiming for death or to inflict permanent wounds [dismemberment], you can’t use restricted weapons (usually one uses the school’s provided weapons). If the participant gets kicked off stage or is unable to continue the battle, they lose, of course forfeiting is also allowed, understand?”

I quickly nodded and started to circulate the Berserk God’s battle chi throughout my entire body, when Xili first saw me, his eyes were filled with surprise, I imagined that he thought, how can this fellow be in the magic-martial class, he looks to be bigger than me by a size, he’s definitely not going to be easy to deal with.

I proudly stood on the arena: “Come.” [ED: many thanks to anon, you know who you are.]

Xili snorted: “You don’t use any weapons?”

I raised my fist, waving: “This is my best weapon, you can use whatever you want.”

Xili thought that I was looking down on him, and his eyes immediately raged with anger, bitterly saying: “Fine, you asked for this, don’t blame me later.” As he said so, He took a fine iron spear from the weapon rack and said: “Look out.”

It will definitely be more comfortable to fight with a pure martial fighter, at least it won’t be like last time, where I was against those 3rd year martial-magic class seniors, in which I needed to defend against their magic as well as attacks.

Although Xili looked very boorish, but he’s not a pure strength fighter, with a shake of his spear, many after shadows appeared immediately and rushed at me.

I thought to myself that although his power was very good, his strength was dispersed, so against me it was not enough to harm me. I did not dodge and just stood there, waiting for his spear to descend on me.

My behavior immediately surprised Xili, he thought I would have some

technique or magic, in his eyes when he saw the spear was about to hit my body, he suddenly retracted and all the spear shadows became one again, quickly piercing to the front.

The spear was not sharp, I breathed in deeply and concentrated the Berserk God's battle chi to the front of my chest, and just like this I took his attack head on.

The spear bent, and Xili felt as if he hit a metal board, not even able to injure me a little. From the corner of my mouth appeared a cold smile, and in one second I had grabbed on to his spear, sending my battle chi to my hand which became a light yellow color and bent his spear. Soon the tip of the spear was pushing down on his shoulder, I said: "Still want to continue?"

Xili tried to struggle free, but the spear on his shoulder felt like ten thousand great burdens, he had no way to move even a little. On his forehead cold sweat appeared, I saw he was still unwilling to give in and pressed down with even more force with the spear still in my hands. Xili immediately kneeled on one knee under my pressure, I immediately shouted: "If you don't want to embarrass yourself, admit defeat."

Xili knew that he could not win against me when it came to strength, and he also did not get to show his specialty. Although in his heart there was a kind of vexation, he couldn't help but say: "OK, I admit defeat."

I raised the spear and threw it at him, turning to get off the stage, Xili shouted: "If I run into you again later, I will definitely not let you win this easily."

I turned to give him a disdainful smile: "If you can persevere, I look forward to it anytime."

Walking off the field, Teacher Zhuang came over and said to me: "You did very well, the opponent basically had no chance to fight back."

I smiled: "This is all thanks to your advice."

In the following days, I passed 3 rounds smoothly, and took a good grade of 4 battles, 4 wins. Today is the last round of the group competition, no

matter who wins, I will enter the top 4. Today's opponent is a student from the magic class, Teacher Zhuang said up until now he also has had 4 battles and 4 wins. In this fight today we will decide who will become the number 1 of this group.

In the other little group, Fenwan relied on his ghost-like movements and surpassed everything else, their group competition already and Fenwan came out top, the second was a martial warrior.

I walked up the arena, and my opponent was dressed in a standard magician's robe, I only just realized right before the round that my opponent today is a girl (I don't mean in any way to discriminate).

My opponent was wrapped in a thick red full-body gown, and the cloak on top of her head was pressed very low, I could not see her appearance since she only exposed a translucent white hand and she held a long magic staff her hands, and a snake was carved on top of the staff in some special material, the top of the staff was the snake mouth which held a huge magic crystal. From a glance I could tell it was a very high quality staff. Teacher Zhuang said, this girl's true power was very strong, the ones before me had no way to defeat her formidable magic.

After all the opponent is a girl, I nodded slightly at her, the female magician raised her magic staff, when the referee announced the start of the match, her magic staff immediately sent a long fireball and flew towards me, what a fast casting speed. In a rush I threw out a few ice cones, canceling out most of her attack. When the other fireballs neared towards me, with my fist one at a time, I also took care of them this way.

While I was resisting against the fireballs, she started to lightly sway her magic staff, and from her mouth was an endless low chant, obviously she wanted to continuously use magic and not give me a chance to get close.

I also didn't rush to attack, I want to see what she can throw at me. These few days I never really bump into a true opponent and I felt very gloomy at winning easily. It did not satisfy me, I can only improve myself in difficult fights.

At this time, her magic was already completed, the magic staff in her hands drew out a beautiful red hexagram, from my experience at the library reading magic books, I knew, this was at least a grade 5 and above magic, it's definitely not easy to deal with. As I expected, I heard her sharp and clear voice: "The dormant God of fire, release your energy, wake, god's protector, Descend of the Fire Dragon." No, this is not a grade 5 magic, it's a grade 6!

M2t5 here. GUESS WHAT?!?!?!?! I got a new Translator :D:D::D:D:D:D::D:D:D::D::D:D:D::D. As you can see I'm very excited to welcome Demenious to ItranslateLN. WELCOME! This half chapter was partially done by Hurraycats, then I managed to ask TaffyGirl13 and Deception (from GravTrans) to finish it. So please give a big thank you to all three of them. This is the last material I have from Hurray, and I have marked where his translations stop, and where Deception and Taffy's start. As of now I have 5 pages of the next Chapter Translated, so I hope we can meet next Sunday's chapter deadline....

Thanks for those of you who have stayed with me the whole time, I have enjoyed reading your comments and seeing how much you enjoyed the series. Hopefully we will be able to stick to, or surpass our 1 chapter a week schedule we had previously.

Enjoy this chapter and welcome Demenious to the team! (we are now off hiatus)

Btw: editing chapters will push back dates on my FF.

I was alarmed, although my defense was very high, it could not withstand such powerful magic. In the meantime, the roar of a dragon came from within the red magic hexagram, and a small dragon flew out from the magic array, baring its teeth and claws at me. It stayed between the girl and I.

I circulated the Berserk God's chi throughout my entire body while I stored the Demonic Arts away and calmly looked at the fire dragon. From the slight tremble of her staff, I could tell this magic was not easy for the girl magician to hold up, she brandished the staff and commanded the

fire dragon to attack me.

The fire dragon had just started moving towards me and I could already feel the heat scorching my face. What a strong flame, no wonder it is ranked as the highest grade mid-level magic. I immediately punched towards the Dragon, increasing the range of the punch with the chi of the Berserk God. The light yellow battle chi of the Berserk God accurately hit the head of the fire dragon. The whole fire dragon shrunk a little, but it's overall appearance did not change, and it continued towards me.

I was not shock, but rather quite happy. I was surprised that my battle chi could actually diminish the intensity of the magic. I learned later on that teacher Zuang had already told everyone this fact, but since I had missed so much of class, I did not know.

I sent out few waves of battle chi whenever the dragon came to attack me. While the battle chi slowed down the fire dragon, and reduced its strength, the girl magician constantly fed the dragon fire, boosting the magic once again.

I realised that at this rate the match would become a stalemate. I could already smell the hair burnt off my arms from my punches, if I got hit by this, my body could survive, but my clothes and hair would be burned off. Even if I didn't get hurt, I still couldn't land a decisive blow to this person... It's so troublesome fighting against a magician.

I sneakily bound my Demonic Arts inside of the Berserk God's battle chi, sending out ten fusion waves in quick succession. Since the power of the Demonic Arts was surrounded by the Berserk God's battle chi, no one could tell the difference between this attack and the others I had sent out previously.

I used all my power in this attack, causing all the clothes on my body to bulge up. A pure yellow light rushed towards the fire dragon. The dragon attempted to block the fusion attack using a field of flames, but the Demonic Arts completely nullified the flames and the attack headed straight for the fire dragon.

The shape and spirit of the fire dragon disintegrated from the combined

battle chi of Berserk God and Demonic Arts, immediately vanishing in midair, the female magician suffered from the backlash and immediately went into shock.

This woman is too strong, I can't let her use magic again, I shouted: "Hurricane." As my fist struck the ground, since I had used this technique in the past, the female magician knew of its power and immediately cast a thick shield on herself while her body quickly dodged to the right.

-----Translated by Deception-----

My attack created a battle-chi strengthened shock wave, raising dust clouds in arena starting at the center. Even though the magician was not slow, she just barely managed to escape the range of the attack.

From inside the dust clouds, debris suddenly flew at her, battering her defense and leaving no part of her untouched. The cloak she had been wearing had been thrown off sometime during the attack.

I took a look at her, she was truly a beauty. I didn't think there could be a sorceress so beautiful; she was in no way inferior to Jisue. Her eyebrows were fully raised while her phoenix-like eyes revealed the power contained within her. It was clear that she was enraged by my actions.

Although she was a woman, she was also my opponent. I could not be kind towards women if they insisted on standing in my way. While she was still panicking about what to do, I rushed towards her and threw a single punch at her.

Right when I thought the blow landed, she disappeared. This wasn't good, it was the mirror image technique. This girl was quite the mage if she could trick my intuition so easily.

I heard a crisp voice from behind me, "You really have no manners, don't you know your opponent is a girl?"

I turned around and saw her right behind me. With a cold voice I said, "I am a warrior, not a gentleman.. Grace makes no sense to me."

My opponent snorted and her body began to speed up so fast that I could see several mirror images of her. The spell was so good that I



couldn't tell which body was the real one.

I stood on the arena motionless as I tried to focus on where she was coming from. Suddenly, my back erupted in pain as it was hit by a fireball. My clothes were destroyed, and my back was charred. I was furious, I hated it the most when people destroyed my clothes. I shouted in anger and brandished my fists, while spreading out my battle chi to cover the arena. The arena quickly turned into a deadly environment.

My whole body exuded a strong murderous intent in all directions. My battle chi exuded with an angry force and showed no mercy. Although the female magician was strong, my strength and battle chi were definitely stronger than hers. My ferocious attacks there was no way she could resist. Each attack was too strong to be blocked.

I hadn't used my Battle Chi in this way before, and I hadn't realized that my Mad God battle chi had a never ending supply of energy. Before, I had to conserve my chi in order not to run out of it, but now I was throwing out punches continuously. It was actually pretty amazing.

"Student Layson, please stop. If you destroy the ring, then you will be held responsible for the costs to repair it."

Hearing this, I hesitated momentarily before stopping. The female magician was curled up in a corner, and the entire arena was filled with rubble and scars, even the spectators around the arena had moved back dozens of meters. Even then, some of the audience members had their faces covered with dust and dirt.

As soon as I stopped attacking wildly, I was the target of everyone's condemnation. Everyone agreed that I shouldn't have fought so hard against a girl and said that I was a disgrace to men everywhere. But why did that matter? As far as I'm concerned, victory was what mattered in the end.

I walked to the female magician and asked, "How are you holding up?"

The female magician slowly got up and covered herself with her robes. She seemed to be traumatized by what I had done. Her lips paused for a second, the words slowly forming on the tip of her tongue., "You are so

terrifying, going all out in a simple match. AH! my clothes.” Her robes split apart right over her chest, letting me see the beautiful sights of spring for a moment. My face reddened as I promptly turned away from her.

The female magicians in the crowd behind me started to cry out. Females sure are more vulnerable than guys.

With a flat voice, I asked, “Did you still want to continue?”

She shook her head desperately and said with a tearful voice, “Who would think that there was a monster who acted so badly towards girls in this tournament.” Holding her clothes to herself, she turned around, and headed down from the arena.

I thought it was lucky that the only things torn were her clothes. The way I fought, I could have damaged her appearance, and that would be a real shame.

And so, I made a dramatic entrance into the semi-finals.

I thought Teacher Zhuang would praise me for winning against this difficult of an opponent. Instead, I was yelled at by Jisue and my other classmates.

Teacher Zhuang scolded me saying, “Layson, you’re so tasteless, even though this is a tournament, you shouldn’t treat your opponents that way. Think of what would happen if you had harmed her permanently. Not only that, damaging a girls’ clothes is quite impolite.”

I was stunned, “But, you wanted me to become the champion, I needed to beat her to do so. It was only her clothes, and I didn’t think that would happen.”

Teacher Zhuang continued, “Even if you want to win the championships, you can’t disregard another person’s image like that. Even now, many teachers have come to me saying that I am teaching a crazy student.”

Even Jisue who was originally cheering me on, came and over and said, “Layson, you didn’t act correctly today. How could you be so harsh on

Frosty and humiliate her in public? She's my best friend."

EN: LOL, random best friend coming out of nowhere.

I was speechless, I was harsh? If I didn't act the way I did, I would have been roasted alive by her. It was obvious that she used fire magic, and yet she was named after ice. What a load of crap, even if she was somewhat pretty, I felt no attraction to her at all.

From this day on, I would have the nickname—Beauty Killer. It meant that even in a competition, I would not hold back against a beautiful girl. It also had another meaning of course, it meant that I had earned the heart of Jisue.

EN: WTF????

My opponent in the semi-final was Fenwan, another warrior. I was originally going to go easy on him, but this guy ignored me before we started fighting in the arena. Right when the referee announced the start of the match, he struck a mighty pose and said, "I am the symbol of justice, and on behalf of all the beautiful women in this school, I will be the end you!" What made it worse was that the female audience all shrieked in response to him. I felt like I was going to vomit blood. I only needed a few hard hits to knock him out of the ring.

I am not sure whether Feng Wen lost his game to win over the beauties or that he was too weak, but he lost to the female mage. In the end, the female mage and I met again in the finals.

When we got inside the arena, I wanted to deal with her gently, but she didn't even give me the chance. She immediately surrendered the match. She didn't seem to take the tournament seriously enough, her strong killing intent suggested that she was a strong fighter. I probably would have become the #1 most hated guy if we had fought.

The audience below the ring shouted, "How shameless, giving the champion title away just like that."

Fortunately due to my tyrannical strength, none of the first year students would dare fight me head on.

Liwa, I have fully recovered from the humiliation I had suffered under you, my heart is full of anger.

EN: again... No idea why this is here...

As Fenwan walked into to the dorm, he whispered so quietly that I could barely hear, "Jisue is looking for you," Based on his behavior towards me, he too was angry at me. A woman's anger is quite far reaching, to even reach my friends. What in the world had I done wrong? I had to use stronger skills to win the match, is that not logical? Was fighting a female with your strength not right? If they were willing to leave me alone, I could live out my life normally.

I quickly walked out of the dormitory. Jisue was standing outside the door looking in, upon seeing me, she walked on over.

I asked, "How nice it is of you to look for me."

Jisue anxiously said, "You caused quite an outrage. Frosty is quite the beautiful woman, she has stirred up trouble for you now. All of the first year students are now your enemies, and even some of the older students have joined in. You'll have to be careful when you step outside from now on."

My eyes flashed with murderous rage, even if I'm not a good-natured person at heart, they still decided to mess with me. I couldn't stand it any longer, and with a cold voice, I said,

"I hope that whoever dares to cause me trouble is tired of living."

Jisue grabbed my hand and said, "What are you planning to do? You're scaring me, don't be like this okay?"

"I won't submit to these people, I won't be a prisoner. If they want to deal with me, they better be prepared to pay the price."

Jisue released my hands, her eyes turning red, "How can you be like this, I originally came here to advise you to go admit your mistake to Frosty, and I could put in some good words so that you can stop this fiasco. But you're going to go make the matter even worse."

My fury soared even higher, coldly, I said, “Even you don’t understand me, do I look like the type of person that would bow and bend my knee towards others? Hmph!”

With that said, I turned around to walk back towards my room, what kind of person was Frosty? She was not content causing trouble between my classmates and I, she had to drive a wedge between me and Jisue. If I see her again, I’ll show her how difficult I am to deal with.

Reaching my room, I fell onto my bed. Thinking about Jisue’ delicate figure, my heart couldn’t help but soften a bit. I’ll go look for her tomorrow, If I take the initiative tomorrow, then we would be able to bury the problem for sure. No, no no, that won’t do, I’d lose face if I did that. I definitely couldn’t go. The two opposing thoughts swam around my head, and at last, I reached a decision. I’ll stay away from Jisue until first to fight against Liwa, and then I’ll go see her.

The next morning, I went over to the College Dean’s office and registered to fight Liwa.

Teacher Zhuang didn’t say anything when she saw me, after all, she is my teacher. Oddly she did say, “Why is it that this year we have two people challenging the representative of the 5th years? Liwa’s strength isn’t the same as that of an average student.” She implied that I was overestimating myself.

I was surprised, “Who else is challenging him?”

Janfen said, “There is a third year named Jiyan challenging him as well.”

I was shocked, Jiyan, why would she challenge Liwa? I quickly asked, “How will we deal with these 2 challenges then?”

Janfen gave it some thought, “According to the school rules, if there are some champions from the lower years that want to challenge the higher year champions, the lower year champions have to fight each other first. In other words, you and Jiyan must fight each other before you can fight Liwa.”

Coming out from the Dean’s office, I was overwhelmed by my emotions.

Why was Jiyan challenging Liwa? Wasn't Liwa constantly chasing after her? If they fight against each other, then the outcome would be unclear. Is Liwa be capable of harming Jiyan? I'm sure he wouldn't, could it be Jisue was letting her older sister do what she could to block my match against Liwa? Yes, this had to be the reason why.

At the end of the school period, all of the participants were on holiday, so most people were packing up in their dorms to prepare to go home. Jisue should be at home as well.

Walking out of the school, I went straight to the Duke's mansion. I wanted to go find Jisue and clear things up between us; I have made great efforts in order to fight against Liwa. I never would had though that there would be such an obstacle blocking my way.

Walking into the Duke's mansion, I asked a servant to help me get a message across. After a while, Jisue came walking out with a somewhat pale complexion, as if looking at me was hurting her.

Jisue said to me with a clipped voice, "How did you get here?"

I let out a breath of air, "Are you not going to invite me inside first?"

Jisue looked deeply at me and said: "Follow me." I followed her and entered the duke's mansion.

# Chapter 4: The Decisive Battle against Liwa

This was the first time I had entered Jisue's room. It had a light purple theme, giving the room a very elegant look. I sat down in a chair while Jisue sat down next to me. We remained silent for a long period of time.

I finally broke the silence saying: "I apologize for losing my temper yesterday, I know that you were thinking about what was best for me, but I feel that I have not done anything wrong. I was just pursuing victory, how was that wrong?"

Jisue glanced at me, lowered her head and said: "You can do whatever you feel is right"

I looked at her and asked: "Are you still mad at me?"

Jisue shook her head curtly.

I said: "By the way, did you know that your sister also wanted to challenge Liwa?"

Jisue raised her head, looking shocked: "What are you talking about? My sister wanted to challenge Liwa too?"

I was surprised at her reaction and said: "You didn't know? I thought you told her to do so."

Jisue's face turned red with anger, glaring at me angrily: "Why would you doubt me?! How couldn't I have known that you wanted to challenge Liwa? Everything you have done up to this point, was it not for this challenge? Do you stop trusting people the moment you have an argument?"

I sat there for a moment, lost for words, my mind was completely blank. I only managed to say: "I..."

Jisue interrupted and said: "Say no more, I'll take you to my sister. Ask her yourself." Finished speaking, she promptly stood up, dragged me out of my chair and left the room.

I quickly said: "Jisue, don't be mad, listen to my explanation, I didn't doubt you, I....."

Jisue wasn't listening, grabbing my hand and pulling me along a hallway until we reached a nearby room. She turned to face me and said: "Sister's just inside, go and ask her yourself." Jisue then knocked on the door. Immediately, we heard Jiyan's voice.

"Who's there?"

"Sister, it's me, I brought Layson with me, he is asking me why you challenged Liwa."

"Oh, wait for a moment."

It wasn't long before the door opened, and Jiyan came out, first glancing at her sister's pale face and then coldly asked me: "Did you bully my sister? Why is her face so pale?"

Jisue cut me off before I could reply saying: "Sis, he didn't bully me; he just wanted to ask why you challenged Liwa"

Jiyan said: "No real reason, Liwa is always bothering me, so I wanted to return the trouble he has caused me."

Jisue turned to me and said: "You heard that, I didn't tell her to challenge Liwa, Are you satisfied?" Tears started rolling down from her large eyes.

I frowned, saying: "Jisue, don't act like this."

Jiyan (she couldn't believe what she saw)stared at me angrily, after seeing me make Jisue cry, she immediately raged at me: "Are you still going to say that you didn't bully my sister? I've heard all about your wickedness from the stories, but I never guessed that you were cold blooded (cruel and merciless) towards both your opponent and your girlfriend, my sister. I shall never forgive you." She prepared to strike at me as she spoke.

I hurriedly explained: "That's not the case, I am not bullying your sister, don't misunderstand."



Jisue wiped her tears from her cheeks, and told Jiyan: "Sister, please don't, the reason I came here with him is to stop you from challenging Liwa."

Jiyan said: "Why?"

Jisue replied: "That's because he wants to challenge Liwa, and we can't have 2 people challenging Liwa at the same time, can we?"

She raised her eyebrow, said: "Know your place, challenging him with your strength would be suicide, you are in way over your head."

Her words immediately angered me, I said: "Why just can't I challenge him, it's not like it matters if I lose, at least I am willing to try. And since you already know Liwa is superior to you in power, what is the meaning of challenging him? At the end of the day, you just give him a chance to show off his power, I am different from you, it would not be the same If I challenged him, I will prove that he is not the strongest."

To my surprise, Jiyan had an expression of admiration on her face, and nodded while saying: "Good (well then), you are very courageous, I will let you fight Liwa. I shall see for myself, whether you have what it takes to become the strongest, but if you plan to fight him the same way you fought my father the other day, I'm afraid that you won't be able to lay a finger on him. Think carefully before making your decision."

I proudly answered: "I have already thought it through, I don't need to think any more. It is only natural to challenge the strong, for me, it is something to be enjoyed."

Jiyan looked at Jisue, asked: "Sister, what do you think?"

Jisue looked at Jiyan with tears in her eyes and said: "This is his own decision, he can do whatever he wishes."

Jiyan comforted her: "Well, part of being a man is that he has to risk his own life for some things. He has courage, you should support him instead of crying, be strong."

Nobody thought that Jiyan would speak for me, I found that my opinion of her had changed quite drastically.

Jiyan then promptly said: “You can stop worrying about my sister, just prepare for the fight: don’t break the rules, if I quit, your fight against Liwa will occur in two days. I hope to see a good fight between 2 strong individuals, not a one sided slaughter.

Recalling Liwa’s arrogant look, a strong will to fight gushed into my heart, I replied to Jisue: “Can you see me out?”

Jisue nodded.

I held her small hand until we reached the mansion’s entrance, I gently asked Jisue: “Please don’t blame me, ok? (Dont blame me, please?) I didn’t have the slightest suspicion of you, in my heart, you are the most important, at this point, no one can replace you.”

Jisue ran into my arms, and glued her body against mine, and said: “be careful always! I’m sorry, I was too selfish.”

After receiving Jisue’s apology, my heart was immediately set to ease. I hugged her, smelling the fragrance of her hair, and said: “Why did your sister suddenly speak so well of me, that was not the impression she gave me when we first met.

Jisue raised her head, giggled softly, said: “You don’t understand her, my sister likes those who are strong, do you know what she told Liwa when he was chasing after her?”

I let out a glanced at the mansion suspiciously .

Jisue continued: “sister said: Only when Liwa became a dragon knight, would she consider marrying him. My sister’s philosophy is that only the strongest person on this continent can bring her sense of security.

As I thought, she seems crazy(that’s insane/crazy enough), luckily for me, she wasn’t my cup of tea.

I said: “They will be in their seventies and eighties by the time Liwa becomes a dragon knight, will she wait that long for him??”

Jisue lightly pounded me saying: ” That’s not the case, sis says that she will marry the most powerful man in the continent, even if he is not a

human. Who knows what could happen if you manage to defeat Liwa? she might start to take an interest in you.

For god's sake, I can't believe Jiyan worships power even more so than I do, she should have been born as a male. "Don't be silly, it's more than enough having you alone."

Jisue's face was filled with satisfaction. She smiled happily and said: "Honestly it doesn't matter, if you earn sister's heart, I would be happy even if she marries you, I wouldn't be separated with my sister."

//// EN: Well now you have it gentlemen; you can now marry beautiful ladies and their sisters!

I gave a bitter smile and said: "Never mind, both you and your sister turn your mood at the slightest whim, just one of you is enough to keep my hands full."

Jisue questioned: "Why, are you complaining about my temper?"

I quickly replied: "No, how could that be, my Jisue's the most gentle being there is." (Is very gentle)

At that time, I heard someone coughing behind us. I let go of Jisue abruptly and turned to look behind me, damn, the duke has returned. Jisue's cheeks turned red on-the-spot, she turned and ran back to the mansion.

Duke's face darkened as he walked to my side, and said "Brat, is this what you called not-overly close to my daughter?" He purposely accented the word "close".

I was caught red handed, I awkwardly apologize: "I'm sorry, sir duke."

Duke hmph and said: "Why did you come to find Jisue." (why the heck did you look for Jisue)

I answered: "it all started when I decided to challenge Liwa, but since Miss Jiyan had the same idea, I came here to request that lady Jiyan forfeit her challenge, and let me face him directly..

My statement piqued the Duke's interest, he said: "If you are going to

challenge Liwa, you must be the first year champion, not bad, you have achieved a great accomplishment. However when it comes to challenging Liwa, I'm afraid you're still....."

I smiled bitterly and said: "unlikely to win due to our gap in power, is that right? I know that already, but I'm willing to try, I should at least know how big the gap between us is and what I am lacking. Only by setting targets, I will be able to improve."

Like father like daughter, the duke made a similar expression as Jiyan's made previously, he said: "Well said, I will await your performance, it seems, agreeing your relationship between Jisue wasn't a bad idea after all, brat, do your best." Duke let out a long laughter and without mentioning it again, he turned back to the mansion.

Coming all the way to the duke's mansion wasn't a waste of effort at all, not only did I receive praises from the duke and Jiyan, I also retained the right to challenge Liwa, I am looking forward to the battle even more than before.

.....

"As a result of third year champion Jiyan forfeiting her right to challenge fifth year champion Liwa, first year champion Layson is set to challenge fifth year Liwa, battle starts now. Judges please take your seats."

Due to the fact that the first year champion rarely ever challenged the fifth year champion, this battle has caused an uproar in the school, all the authorities, principal, vice principal and teachers in charge from each department came to watch the match. We fought on the school's number one training grounds, stage. It was way bigger than the fourth training ground's stage I usually used. For this match, the school had brought 4 magicians of the middle tier and above, and the entire school's student body has come to watch. This match is also the final and most exciting match to watch.

What's most interesting is that the match's judge is the vice principal himself, when I walked on the stage I heard the vice principal's voice in

my head: “Good brat, you are really brave, good luck, when things get bad, just use your black magic, I will take all the responsibility.” vice principal’s words built a warm feeling in my heart, I took a quick glance at him gratefully and stood at the corner of the gigantic stage.

About every student below was shouting Liwa’s name , especially the first years who were the loudest among all. There are two reasons, first. because Liwa himself is their idol, and secondly, they wish that Liwa would teach me a lesson, in their stead.

Liwa was wearing a very ordinary suit of armor, and his face was serene, He was not ruffled one bit by the chaos in the audience.

The vice president called us to the center of the arena, and said: “In this tournament, you must follow the rules, especially you Liwa, we all know your prowess, so take care when you strike, the rules are as follows– do not cripple your opponent, and do not kill your opponent, understand?”

We both nodded, and Liwa turned to me and said: “You aren’t bad at all, you really persisted until the end to challenge me.”

I said coldly: “hmpf! what’s the big deal, you just have a few more years of training.”

Liwa laughed: “I am a figure that you can never surpass. You will never be able to defeat me up until the day I die. Today I shall avenge the countless students from my department you have defeated. However, I still want to thank you for stopping Jiyan from challenging me.” As he spoke, he seemed to be a bit troubled.

I nodded and said: “It’s because you are my opponent”

Liwa said: “If i were to fight her, I could never had brought myself to hurt her, and would have surrendered, I’m not as brave as you.” He is obviously indicating the match between bing bing and I.

The vice principal spoke, saying: “Stop the nonsense, I now announce, the competition begins now.”. Having spoken, in a flash, he left the stage, and the four judges below the stage activated a magical barrier, separating us from the outside completely.

Liwa and I stepped back at the same time, putting a distance of 20 meters between us.

Liwa smiled while saying: “I’ve heard that you don’t use weapons, so I won’t use any either, just so that you can’t say that I bullied you.”

I said coldly: “Use whatever you want to, my hands are my greatest weapons.”

Liwa said: “Despite your weakness, you insist on running your mouth. Well come at me, let’s see how tough your hands are.”

Just when I was about to strike, Liwa disappeared from my sight. Everyone in the audience witnessed Liwa’s lightning like speed when he came to my right, and blasted a punch at my shoulder.

I felt an enormous strength, and my entire big and tall body was sent flying and I crashed into the teachers’ barrier, and fell to the ground .

Both Jiyan and Jisue exclaimed in shock. But while Jisue exclamation was filled with heartache, Jiyan’s exclamation was filled with disappointment. Jiyan said: “What is wrong with Layson, he is totally weak. He is a disgrace.”

Liwa’s blow had impacted me, but my defense was still strong, and I forcefully held in the pain of my shoulder, and stood up again.

Liwa laughed: “Although i wasn’t able to test the toughness of your hands, I concluded that your skin is just as tough.”

I emitted chi to all parts of my body, and casted countless low standard magic skills towards Liwa. Liwa just stood there, taking every hit, no matter what magic was fired towards him, they vanished three feet from his body, what an incredible chi armor.

I punched the ground with all my strength, and shouted: “Hurricane”. Liwa’s lips twitched, he copied me and punched the ground. The two attacks clashed and immediately caused massive earthquake. My attack broke, and chi escaped under my feet. I was once again sent flying into the barrier. I can’t believe that I lost a battle of strength without any competition.

Liwa did not pursue his attack, rather he stood there elegantly, he said to me: “that wasn’t bad, but it seemed like you haven’t perfected it, it doesn’t have much power.”

I stood shocked, I couldn’t help but be amazed, a dragon knight’s power is really terrifying, this strength is totally unbelievable.

Liwa surprisingly said: “You’re really tough, you can withstand hits really well, it’s been awhile since I have beaten sandbags, and today’s the right day to practice. He flashed right beside me and with a punch I was sent flying.

I’ve learned my lesson, the moment he hit me, I quickly concentrated Armor of Heaven Thunders and Demonic Arts on the parts I was hit, although I still received a relatively big blow, I wasn’t critically damaged.

Just like this, I have become a true sandbag, every time I was knocked off my feet, I stood up, and when I stood up, I was sent flying again, I did not get any chance to attack, and Liwa did not leave any openings for large scale magic, whereas low ranked magic couldn’t even harm him, not even my demonic arts.

The principle suggested to vice principal: “Let’s end the tournament, this is not much of a fight, it’s obviously one sided.”

Vice president said: “Wait a little longer, you never know when a miracle can occur.”

In the audience, Jisue is crying like a cry baby, she kept shouting that I surrender, but unfortunately the barrier also muted the sounds from outside, so I could not hear anything. Jiyan was only staying because of her sister. She would have walked away ages ago.

Liwa’s lightning speed and enormous strength have allowed me to witness a knight’s capability, no, I can’t lose like this, I..... I could not even keep a clear mind, Liwa’s punches, getting, heavier, heavier, every hit. Streak of blood, from the corner, my lips, entire body felt, torn apart. The flow of my chi, disrupted, strangely painful.

EN: paragraph was purposefully made this way. (tell us what you think

about it)

Liwa sent me flying again and I crashed against the barrier, and at that moment I saw Jisue's tears and Li Yan's disdainful look. My heart broke. And this time, when I fell to the ground, I did not fall, instead i stood at the stage with my head lowered.

Liwa suddenly felt my growing aura he immediately stopped his assault. I abruptly raised my head and roared at the sky furiously, all the blood in my body boiled , and I suddenly felt a smothering heat in my head, my light green hair turned into bloody red. The injuries on my body healed speedily, and my entire body let out a terrifying killing intent.

The principal and vice principal on the stage both exclaimed at the same time: "Berserker!"

The vice principal asked: "Should I stop the tournament right now?"

The principal said excitedly: "There shouldn't be any problem, after all Liwa's superiority over his opponent is vast, let's observe the fight for a while more, how many years has it been since the last berserker appeared? This is great, our school has finally obtained one, and what's more, he's a first year newbie, if we can foster him with care, he will definitely have outstanding achievements. If that happens, we will finally become the head of the 4 great academies.

For the second time in my life, i've gone berserk, but due to the effect of my Demonic Arts, which has gotten close to completing the third stage. I am barely able to retain my consciousness.

Liwa was completely taken aback, due to his family's knowledge he also recognized my berserk transformation.

He immediately threw a punch right at me, and strong burst of chi rushed towards my breast. I laughed maniacally, and just a grabbed the chi he released, squeezed it a bit, and his chi completely dispersed.

Jiyan and Jisue are totally astonished, the Li Xiang who was getting beaten badly seconds ago, not only is fighting back, now has the upper hand.



Jiyan told Jisue: “(little) sister, i think you’ve got a treasure, this brat can even go berserk.”

Liwa waved his hands, and a longsword flew to him the from weapon rack, he looked at me intensely. Moving his legs deliberately, he looked for any openings to attack.

After going berserk, I can feel my entire body emitting explosive power, I shouted: “Hurricane”, even though it was the same hurricane from before, it was heaven and earth different from the last attack, Liwa didn’t even dare face it, and dodged. Where he was standing, 10metres of ground were completely blasted away. My chi was going mad, causing countless tornadoes, filled with rubble and shards of rocks, to seal him away from every single angle. This is the true power of the mad god.

Liwa was relatively calm, holding his long sword, he brought out his chi to maintain his position in midair, as he jumped in the sky, the shadows of his sword blocked in front of him, protecting his body. Although he was knocked onto the barrier, the rubble didn’t cause a lot of damage to him.

Step by step, I walked towards him, Liwa’s eye expressed disbelief, he’s noticeably taken aback by the incomprehensible madness of my chi. With a light tip toe of the barrier, he lightning rushed by my side and struck his sword.

//// EN: don’t know what “With a light tip toe of the barrier” is supposed to mean.

After going berserk I literally couldn’t feel any pain, and my defense had increased ten-fold anyway, so I ignored his attack. Allowing him to chop at me, I let out a loud roar, emitting a large amount of chi that made him tremble, I shouted: “Heavenly Berserk mode” The space around my body became twisted, and every strand of crimson hair stood/straighten up, while my muscles bulged even more, tearing off my formal clothes.

//// AN: Luckily the changes were mainly concentrated at the upper part of body, or it’ll embarrassing

//// EN: ^

Liwa was not stupid either, looking at my momentum, he knew that i was not an easy opponent. He quickly fell back, and his whole body started to boil while an intense blaze enveloped his body with flame. He said: "After going berserk you are indeed incredibly strong, you are now a worthy opponent, let's give all we've got, Final Secret Technique—Dragon Cloud Tornado." His body rapidly spun, forming dragon tornado like light pillar that rose into the sky.

The principle turned to vice principal and said: "Not good, both Liwa and Layson have released killing intend, hurry, we must stop them, remember, persuading them is our priority, definitely do not harm any of them."

My Heavenly Berserk mode released right at that moment, and a surge of crimson red chi instantly filled an area 3 metres in diameter in front of me, I roared: "Fight." the crimson red chi corrugated, and fired like lightning towards Liwa, who was still in the midair.

Liwa twisted into the form of a light dragon and rushed at me.

At this deciding moment, two gray and white shadows cut into the middle of the fight. Each letting out a lump of light which was neither magic nor chi, and guided our attacks into the sky. The barrier in the sky unable to withstand the amount of the power our attacks contained, was reduced to shreds of light/sparkles and vanished into the sky.

I felt a discharged of power, and I didn't know what happened after that the beam of light flashed passed, and Liwa fell on the arena with a pale face, supporting himself with the long sword.

The two principals stood in the middle of the arena, the vice principal said with clear voice: " the competition is over, Liwa is the winner, everyone may leave."

He's right, if I had clashed with Liwa's power, the one who would have failed would definitely be me, after all, what I did was only borrowing the potential of the berserk mode, not my own power, compared to Liwa's years of hard work and training there is still a huge gap in our power.

The principal said to Liwa: “Liwa, your skills has improved, very good, you put reall effort into that attack just now. You should go back and rest.”

Liwa smiled bitterly: “Improve what, I was almost defeated by that newbie, that is way too embarrassing.”

The principal laughed, said: “Don’t be discouraged, someone with a physique like him who is capable of berserking has not appeared in hundreds of years, there would have been no need to feel bad if you had lost. let alone the fact that you ultimately won.

After that I returned to my normal form and fainted. Just as I was about to fall on the ground, the vice principal caught me and said to the principal: “this kid spent too much energy, I will take him to be healed.”

The principal nodded.

Jisue was panicking below the stage, about to rush up onto the arena, but Jiyan managed to pull and stop Jisue. Jiyan said: “don’t worry, my teacher is taking care of him, he will be completely fine.” Jisue only managed to calm down after hearing this.

.....

I woke up confused, it felt like my whole body was soft and weak, I couldn’t exert any strength at all, as I struggled to sit up, a kind voice rang beside my ear, he spoke reproachfully : “lie down properly and don’t move, you need to rest well.”

Now that I can see clearly, I see that the vice principal and principal both are sitting at the sides of my bed.

I said: “Principals, thank you both for treating me.”

Vice principal smiled said: “that wasn’t a big deal, your injuries were not that serious either, its just that you used too much of your power. You can only recover by resting.”

The principal asked: “Layson, in the past, did you know you had the ability to go berserk?”

Damn, is berserk a characteristic of the bi meng tribe? I became alarmed that I could be discovered as a spy and said: "What berserk? I don't know anything about any berserk."

The principal said: "during your fight with Liwa, you went berserk, berserk mode is a special physique of a being that appears suddenly, causing one's body potential to be brought out, whether it being attack, defense or recovery, speed, all will increase ten-fold."

I shook my head: "I don't know anything about this, I have never heard of it in the past either, during the battle with Liwa, I felt that my brain suddenly became heated, my whole body felt like it was boiling, i don't know anything after that, I lost, did I not?"

The principal nodded, said: "Although lost you lost, you lost with dignity. I've never seen that Liwa pushed to the extreme by one of our students, if you can wield berserker ability at will... well you will achieve great success. Berserkers are already extremely rare in the land..."

hearing what he said I could finally breath again, it turned out that berserking was not unique to the Bi Meng tribe.

I said with a smile: "well I request advices from you teachers in the future"

The principal said: "If you transfer over to the martial section of the school, it would be better for your future development."

Before I could reply, Teacher Zhuang's voice was heard: "no, there is definitely no way you can do this. We the magic-martial department finally found someone so outstanding, how can you just take him away from us?"

The principal awkwardly smiled, and told Teacher who came and stood beside the door: "little Zhuang, im also doing this for your sake, you also saw that he can activate berserk mode, if you left him in the magic-martial section, it will affect his development."

Teacher Zhuang came inside and sat beside me, she looked dissatisfied as she said: "who said that, Layson also has an amazing aptitude for

magic, I will not agree to his transfer to the martial department.” After speaking, she looked alarmed by what she had said to the principal.

The vice principal cut in and said, “you two should stop fighting, let’s hear from the person himself. In any case, our school prioritizes the student’s choice over those of his teachers.

I looked at them, recalling the motherly warmth which Teacher Zhuang has brought to me, it was no longer a question. I said with determination: “I have decided to stay at my current class and continue to learn both martial arts and magic; magic is something I liked a lot and I do not wish to give it up.”

The principal looked at me with disgust and said: “well then, if you need any help in the future, feel free to acquire any teacher from our academy”

I nodded my head, said: “thank you sir principal”

principal said: “Then I better not interrupt your rest, I will leave. Take care and watch your recovery, you may take a break from school, and come back in April, do not be late. In the meantime, the school will pay for your treatments here.

I saw him leave the room, and Teacher Zhuang suddenly hugged me and kissed my cheek. She said with tears in her eyes: “thank you, Layson. Thank you for being willing to stay in our class.”

I awkwardly touched the kiss mark on my face and said: “Teacher, you don’t have to thank me, you treated me so well, how I can throw all that away and leave?”

Suddenly, I felt a strong gaze coming from the vice principal, and I looked back into the doorway, and I noticed an extremely pale Jisue, she had her lips closed tightly. I realized that she must have heard our conversation, I saw tears falling down from her eyes and soaking her clothes, and I called: “Jisue, why have you come?”

////EN: Bad thing to say...

Jisue cried: “Yeah, I came, did I interrupt your good moment?” she then turned and ran.

Teacher Zhuang also looked confused, she only understood the situation after Jisue had left. She blushed on the spot, and told me: “what are you waiting for, Layson, go and chase after her”

I smiled bitterly, “Chase? How do I chase her, I can’t even move. Doesn’t matter, it’s just a misunderstanding anyway, I will explain to her when I recover.”

The Vice Principal said: “This hospital is one of the academy’s facilities, if you stay in bed and rest for a few days, you should recover. Your performance today really surprised us, train well and you will have a bright future. By the way, I spent a huge amount of effort to fend off the attack of that whatever mode you used today, your chi shocked me so hard today that it disrupted the flow of my chi throughout half the day. If my light element recovery magic’s effect was a little worse, I would have been admitted to the hospital like you already.”

////EN: Yeah, no idea.

Even though I know he is joking, hearing him praise my skills, makes me happy.

I said: “if you didn’t confine me for three months, I wouldn’t have been able to accomplish today’s result.”

The Vice principal said: “Rest well, when you recover, you should quickly find your girlfriend, girls need a little sweet talking, always putting up a stiff front won’t make anything happen, let’s go Xiao Zhuang.”

Teacher Zhuang said: “Come look for me when you go and pack your things from the school.”

I nodded.

# Chapter 5: The Past

I'm left alone in the hospital room. While I was looking at the ceiling, I started worrying about Jisue. Out of all the times she could have come, she had to come during teacher's emotional moment. Even though this girl may look gentle and agreeable, she is actually very stubborn once she's convinced about something. Whatever, I should stop thinking about things I can't change.

I checked my body carefully; my chi center felt hollow, as my chi was released in gargantuan amounts during the fight. My Demonic Arts was comparatively better; I could still train it somewhat. But I couldn't recover my energy through training, only sleep would help that. So while staring at the ceiling and worrying about Jisue, I fell asleep.

When I woke up, I felt a lot better. After some time, a nurse walked in, and I was surprised to find that she was Kelan.

I said, "Kelan, it's you again!"

Kelan said bluntly "Who else would take care of you, you goddamn heartless, ungrateful, jerk! When you left the last time, you just disappeared, I went to find you in the school, only to find out that you had been confined. I waited for a long time, even after you should have been released, but you didn't even come find me in the end, hmph!"

I mumbled: "No, I took part in a tournament and had to prepare for it, that's why... that's why I couldn't come and see you. And see, did I not come find you right after the tournament?"

Kelan smiled cheekily, "Right, right, you came to find me, only after you were half dead. Again. Hurry up and eat, the principal specially ordered this for you. You are now our hospital's VIP, if I hadn't taken care of you the last time you were here, I wouldn't even be able to see you."

Kelan took the hospital's table and placed it on my bed, along with a platter full of food. It looked marvelous, a pot porridge that was cooked with mysterious ingredients, fruits and all types of desserts, I gave her a thumbs up.

Kelan said: “the porridge is prepared specially for you, it’s called Spring Snow porridge, I spent the whole night boiling the porridge with snow powder and spring chicken, try a little.”

I took a sip, and my mouth was immediately filled with a fresh fragrance, I proceeded to finish the whole bowl, it was delicious.

Kelan noticing my ravenous hunger, and served a different bowl, saying: “Here’s something else”

.....

I feasted upon all the delicious food, feeling eminently relaxed with a full stomach, I suddenly remember Jisue. I have to tell Kelan about my relationship with Jisue. Jisue is already this mad at me, I can’t afford another misunderstanding.

After cleaning the the dinnerware, she sat beside me and asked: “How you do you feel? Has your condition gotten better?”

I nodded, said: ‘Kelan, I need talk to you about something.’

She replied, saying “Okay.”

I asked: “Do you remember the girl we saw at the stable?”

Kelan replied: “That innocent and beautiful girl?”

I nodded.

Kelan felt something was wrong but plainly asked: “what about her?”

I sighed and brought my courage to say: “She’s now my girlfriend”

Kelan’s normally rosy cheeks immediately drained of their color. She glared at me. After a long period of quiet, she softly asked: “When did it start?”

I avoided her question.

“Sorry, Kelan, I’ve already had her, I know that you have always been so kind towards me, but.....”

Kelan abruptly stood up and quipped: “I never said anything so don’t be ridiculous. You should rest. I’m leaving, another patient called.” She



managed to control her emotions as she walked out the room. But once she stepped out the room, she leaned against the wall, and tears flowed out uncontrollably.

As I sat on the bed, lying on the pillows, my heart was suffering, I have wounded two girls who I care about, in two consecutive days. Perhaps, I never should have followed emotions.

Kelan continued to deliver me food and medicine, as well as take care me. But her attitude was much colder; she seldom talked like she used to. I feel guilty, in spite of the pain I have caused her, I am making her take care of me attentively, and prepare the delicious Spring Snow porridge. But one thing's for sure, I made the right decision, if I hadn't told Kelan about Jisue, I really do not know how it would have ended.

Under Kelan's meticulous care, my physique quickly recovered, and my condition basically returned to its original state. Kelan did not appear the day I was discharged from the hospital, her colleague was there instead. She delivered Kelan's letter in her stead. The contents were simple, three words, written – I hate you. Love was turning into hate, Kelan I'm sorry. I didnt say anything and left the hospital directly.

Kelan climbed up the second floor's window to see the figure of me leaving, she was already crying like a baby.

I did not return to school instead, I headed straight towards the duke's mansion, I must explain clearly to Jisue that what she saw was a misunderstanding, I have already hurt Kelan, I will not continue to hurt Jisue.

I asked the maids relay my message, and shortly after, the maids came back and told me: "Second Young Mistress refused to meet you, please go home."

It seemed that Jisue really was mad, I wondered what I could do.

Jiyan's figure appeared within my vision, she froze upon seeing me and said: "Layson, how dare you come here to find my sister after what you have done! I'll f\*\*king kill you!" She fired a light arrow at me, I avoided the arrow nervously, but before Jiyan could continue, the duke walked out

from the mansion and said “What is happening, what’s with the noise... Hm? Layson you prick, I was looking to settle a score with you.”

For god’s sake, even the duke wants to beat the crap out of me, What have I done wrong?

I respectfully said: “Sir duke, I came here to resolve this misunderstanding.”

Jiyan: “there’s no need for an explanation, you were caught by my sister, go back and fool around with that shameless w\*\*\*\* of a teacher, you son of a b\*\*\*\* .”

I looked down to conceal my anger and said: “you should be polite when you speak, who did you call shameless? You dare you to insult my teacher one more time.”

Jiyan rage: “ Am I wrong? She’s indeed a w\*\*\*\*, she even seduced her own students!”

I could no longer hold in my anger, shouting: “YOU...!!”

The Duke cut in before I could do anything and said: “Enough of this nonsense, GUARDS, TAKE HIM DOWN.”

Upon hearing the duke’s orders, four shadows immediately appeared. At first glance they appeared to be imperial bodyguards, high class soldiers who protect only the most important nobles. I’m definitely inferior to every single one of them, whether it comes to strength or magic. The visit did not work out the way I wanted it to, not only was I not able to clear up the misunderstanding, I had to fight another one-sided battle.

The four guards rapidly surrounded me, their skills were very solid. I was forced to concentrate on saving myself. If my defenses were one bit weaker, I would have lost this fight in the first minute.

I backflipped in the air, dodging an imperial guard’s attack. Suddenly, “dang lang!!” A blue spark of light fell from my clothes and hit the ground, producing a clear and melodious sound.

The duke went ridged, as if lightning had struck him, he shouted:

“STOP!”

The four imperial guards immediately backed off, leaving me bruised and barely standing. The duke waved his hands, and the object I dropped flew to him. Ah, it's mother's bell that was given to me a long time ago. The duke murmured: “this... this is... this is it. You, w-w-where did you get this?” He became so emotional that his words became incoherent.

I replied: “Can you return my bell? I don't have time for this, I have to resolve this misunderstanding with Jisue as soon as possible.”

Duke hurriedly said: “Let's talk about this, leave the matter involving Jisue to me, come with me. Jiyan, leave now.”

The duke urgently dragged me into the mansion stumbling as he guided me around the many pathways. Eventually, we came to a room full of books, this must be his library.

The duke slammed the door, and turned around with frantic eyes saying: “Hurry up and tell me, where did you get this from?”

My heart jolted, I said: “long ago, I protected a businessman who did business in the beast country, and by a coincidence, I ran into an old lady who gave this to me. She entrusted me this bell so that I would give it to a man in the dragon empire called, Linden.”

The duke grabbed my shoulders and asked excitedly: “I am! I am Linden, hurry up and tell me what else did she say?!?”

I frowned: “Relax.” I never thought the duke was the person who mother was looking for. What a coincidence.

The duke relaxed his grip and looked at me with expectation in his eyes. I pulled myself together and said: “The lady also told me to tell Linden, ‘Ling Ling has let you down, sorry’.”

The duke's body suddenly stiffened, as tears flowed from his eyes unconsciously. He clenched his fist, ignoring the bell's edges which were cutting deeply into his palm. Suddenly, the duke tightly grabbed my shoulders once again and asked with a broken voice: “Tell me! where is she?? I must meet her!”

I shook my head and said: “When I saw her, her health was already deteriorating, I’m afraid she couldn’t hold on any longer. I planned to bring her back with me to the dragon empire but she said that she’s too ashamed to return. And after that she ran.”

Duke blanked, he said: “Why wasn’t she willing to come back? Since the time she went missing, I searched for her for nearly 20 years. Ling ling... why do you not return, no matter what you have become, if only you come back, I will accept you no matter what.” Listening to what he said, could my mother and the duke possibly be lovers?

I asked: “sir, what’s wrong? Did you possibly had a relationship with that lady?”

Duke’s eyes reddened, he sighed: “Did you know that in the past, I was a commoner?”

I said exclaimed: “Sir was born a commoner!?”

Duke nodded, he continued: “I was called Linden, Since a young age, I had loved training my physical prowess. When my father saw my continued efforts, he risked his entire fortune to send me to school. Day after day, I looked at my father who seemed like he had aged more than all the other fathers, and I swore to myself, I must achieve great success, so great that I shall be able to repay my old man’s sacrifice .”

The Duke looked as if he had returned to his past, as he spoke, he couldn’t help but to show some wistfulness for times gone by.

“During lessons I worked harder than everyone else. Due to my painstaking effort and my natural abilities, I had already begun to stand out among others in the dragon empire at the age of 17. For further studies, I entered Sky City Academy, and completed the exam with my own strength and prior knowledge. Speaking of which, I’m also your senior! I worked very hard in that academy, and during that time, I got to know Ling Ling. Ling Ling was 2 grades below me. At that time, I thought she was just normal girl from a noble family. Laugh all you want, but when I first saw her, I felt a strong electric shock all over me. For the first time of my life, I finally found something I cared about more than money

and power. In the beginning, I only dared to look at her from a distance, but as time went by, even her slightest move and smile made my heart throb. On an occasion, I finally had the opportunity to talk to her, and from that day onwards, I fell even more deeply in love with Ling Ling. Ling Ling was so kind and gentle. She finally accepted me, before she graduated, and I was so happy I almost went mad. During that time I was already a servant of the empire. I originally planned to marry her as soon as I could, however she disappeared, sometime later, someone told me about what happened: she went missing when she was accompanying his highness at the Demon-Beast alliance war meeting. I found out that surprisingly she was his highness's most beloved sixth princess. This bell was the present I gave as a promise to marry her."

Listening to mother's lover talking about their past, I felt a strange feelings well up inside of me.

The duke wiped his tears while looking at the bell sparkling with blue light.

I asked: "Did sir look for traces of her in the demon and beast country/land?"

Duke replied: "Of course I did. I disguised myself and traveled back and forth between the two countries countless times, but finding her was like finding a needle in a haystack, it couldn't possibly have any good result, and in the end, every attempt I made failed."

I thought of the duke as a sharp, sly, high ranking official. I never thought that he had a sentimental side, I asked: "So what happened after that? How did you marry your current wife?"

Duke nodded and said: "Although I was not able to forget Ling Ling, I must still live my life. With my outstanding intelligence and skills, I finally earned the notice of a prince, and he was willing to let me marry his daughter with the condition that any heirs we produced became a part of his family. This is also the reason why Jiyan and her sister do not follow my surname. Do you think that i'm a person who does whatever it takes to achieve his purpose? But, do you know, if I married the prince's

daughter, I could still strive for another 30 years, and if Ling Ling came back, I would give up everything and start a new happy life with her? But then again, there's nothing left to care about, there was only the vow I made when I was young, that's why I married the prince's daughter-whom is my current wife. I attained the power I thirsted for, and I completed my vow. But yet, for all these years I have achieved my goal, am I even happy? No. My life only became brighter during the time I thought of my old days with Ling Ling. And then, when I first saw you, you asked me, if I were a commoner and happened like a royal? Would I give up because of it? It caused me to recall my past from my hearts, and yes, if Ling Ling did not go missing, I doubt that his highness would allow his daughter marry a small officer like me. No way would he allow it, but with the affection between me and ling ling, I would not have given up either. That's why... (because I thought of a god damn long story between me and ling ling) that's the only reason I agreed to the relationship between you and my daughter."

So that's how it is, mother has such an unexpected story. I secretly sigh, so what if mother came back, she's already too old, compared to duke's current wife her charm is incomparable, would the duke still love her? That's hard to say. In addition, I don't think mother can just come back and destroy other people's family.

Thinking about it, I said: "Sir duke, the story of your past is indeed very touching, but what's past is past, please value what you have now."

Duke nodded and said: "Thank you for guarding this bell for me, regarding what happened between you and Jisue, I will grant you a chance to explain yourself,"

I blushed, and I told him everything that happened that day.

After listening to me, he sulked: "I see... You aren't deceiving me, are you?"

I straighten my face and vowed: "I swear in the name of a warrior, if I lied..."

Duke waved his hand to stop me from continuing, he said: "Enough

enough, I can tell that you won't break your word just by looking at you, your oath will do. Since this is a misunderstanding between you and Jisue, find Jisue and explain the situation to her. She always overthinks things, and when she decides something, changing her mind is a bit difficult. My advice is to comfort her with a little sweet talking. Anyway, this term's holiday has started, what's your plan?"

I nodded and said: "I wish to find a quiet place and train for a period of time, since my fight with Liwa, i noticed my strength is still far from him, i must improve myself so that i can hold my ground here."

The duke had already awakened from reminiscing about the past and, listening to me, he showed an expression of approval and said: "You thinking is correct, just like how I was in the past, very determined. Furthermore, i heard that you have a physique that can go berserk, that's very good! However, i have one question for you, what is your aim?"

I blanked, what is my aim, right, what is my aim?

Duke said: "Everyone has their own big aim, it is your primary motivation, understand? Take me for example, my goal was to obtain an incomprehensible power, no matter the cost, and I have obtained it. So what about you? What is your aim?"

My mind went blank, did I even have a aim? When I was a kid, my aim was to become the strongest being that no one could surpass. But now, is my goal the same?

The duke said: "Kid, choosing a goal is not easy, I hope that you can use this holiday to think about it. Let me know if you need a silent place to train, I will happily provide it." I shook my head and said: "No sir, thanks for the offer, but I have just now decided to leave. You were right, I am unsure about my goals as of now. I need some time to think over my objectives. If I stay here, I will not be able to focus, I would constantly be reminded of Jisue, I might lose control of myself and look for her.'

The duke was shocked: "Are you not going to resolve the misunderstanding with Jisue??"

I replied: "No, sir please explain it to her for me, I'm afraid I won't be

able to concentrate if I see her now. Besides, love is always in your heart, no matter how long you stay apart.”

The duke smiled and said: “You are quite a fast learner, well then, you may leave, I look forward to seeing how your power improves in the future.”

I then took off the necklace mother gave me and passed it to duke, I said: “I believe you should be able to recognise this.”

Duke’s hands trembled as he received the necklace, he inspected it carefully. With a voice filled with excitement and emotion, said: “Of course, this the engagement present I gave Ling Ling, why is this in your hands?”

I sighed and said: “That lady gave it to me, she said it was repayment for passing along her message.” As I spoke my heart broke as I heard my mother’s voice in my ears again.

The duke murmured: “Why, there should be no reason to do this.” He obviously didn’t even suspect that I am Ling Ling’s only son.

I said: “Please give this to Jisue, tell her to take it as my promise to her, that if she waits until the day I have succeeded and gained renown, I will definitely come back and marry her. During this holiday, I wish to find a deserted place where I can train without interruption. You were right, it’s high time that I set a goal for myself.”

The duke said: “I will enter the palace to meet his highness, I’m sure his highness would be delighted to hear the news of Ling Ling’s.” I’m taken aback, this wouldn’t lead to a war between human and beasts would it? Never mind, this is beyond my control, I should focus on improving my strength as much as possible.

After bidding farewell to the duke, I walked outside the library and ran into Jiyan whose face was still filled with killing intent. She said: “Father just let you go?”

I can’t help but shrugged and said: “What else do you want him to do? Murder me? or beat me until I couldn’t even crawl?”



Jiyan raged: "As I wished, I'll f\*\*\*\*\* murder you! hmph!"

My face darkened and I said: "I'm afraid that If you don't change your temper, no one will dare to marry you." Finished speaking, I turned and walked towards the exit.

Jiyan said from behind me: "It's none of your business anyway, wait, that's it? You're leaving? Are you not going to see Jisue?"

I stopped and turned to her: "I've explained everything to the duke, go and ask him yourself. Afterwards, tell Jisue: my feelings towards her will never change."

Walking out the mansion, I felt as if a weight had been lifted off my shoulders. After all, I completed the task mother gave me. What should I do... let's go back to school, didn't Teacher Zhuang ask me to look for her? After seeing her, I will leave the school to travel and train.

The school has lost its liveliness, the academy has become silent. I walked to Teacher Zhuang's office and knocked on the door lightly. Teacher Zhuang's voice was heard: "Who's there? Come in."

I pushed the door open and walked into Teacher Zhuang's office, she was reading a book, she seemed to be quite relaxed."

"Layson, it's you! Quick, come in, has your body recovered?"

I nodded and said: "I've recovered."

Teacher Zhuang smiled and said: "That is great, your fight against Liwa was incredibly outstanding."

I smiled bitterly: "What was outstanding? I lost without being able to fight back."

Teacher Zhuang said: "Why not? Although you were at a disadvantage at the beginning, after you went berserk, you gave Liwa a hell of a lot of trouble! You made those gossipers during the year tournament shut their mouth, and also made teacher proud."

Teacher Zhang stood up and walked to the counter, filling me a glass of water. I received the glass of water and sighed, saying: "I was only able to

fight him off thanks to my body's unique ability; with my current strength, my true abilities are still far from those of Liwa."

Teacher Zhang comforted me: "It's ok, he's four no, five years older than you, do you not have the confidence that you can catch up to him? Liwa was successfully inducted into the dragon's knight troop. But as of now he's only a temporary dragon knight intern, he will be going to the dragon's den soon to search for a dragon, if he succeeds in finding one, he will become a true dragon knight. If he becomes a true dragon knight, his powers will be even greater than what you saw during your battle. That's why you must not relax, you must set him your target."

I nodded and said: "Don't worry, I will definitely defeat him."

Teacher Zhuang walked back to her desk and pulled something out from underneath it. she pointed at one and said: "This is your reward for winning the tournament, I picked it for you from the school's weapon room, it's a good weapon, so open and see it."

Weapon? Reward? I forgot about this a long time ago. Excited, I walked forward, grabbed the box, and tried to lift it, it's heavy! Even with my strength, my hand still dropped a bit from the weight. Teacher smiled at me proudly, indicating that she wanted me to open it.

I opened the box, and found an pitch-black longsword, both wide and long. Other than the black transparent crystal on the handle, it had no other obviously noticeable parts, but looking carefully, I could see a chilling aura was emitted by the surface of the sword. Even if I couldn't differentiate a weapon's quality, I could still tell that this was a high quality sword. I couldn't help but exclaim in admiration: "Such a good sword!"

Teacher Zhang beamed: "Of course it's good, this sword is the school's greatest weapon, it's an ancient weapon! If you hadn't performed a berserk transformation during your fight with Liwa, the principal wouldn't have even let me look at it. It seems that now he thinks that you are the best candidate to succeed Liwa as the strongest in the school!"

I took the sword out of the box and held it. The pattern of the handle is

very fitting, it feels very comfortable to hold. At once, I felt a chilly breeze sweep through my body from the handle, and my body's demonic arts speedily releases some power in response to the breeze. Gradually the sword let out a black glow.

Teacher Zhuang exclaimed: "Why is this different when you hold it? There is no reaction when I held it! Anyways, the sword is four feet and three inches long, 3 inches wide, and 4/3 inches wide. It is classified as a heavy weapon, and it's name is Black Sable. The principal told me that it used to belong to the demon clan, and it's also one of the world famous seven fine swords! Sky city academy has been in possession of 3 of these famous swords, one of them has been give to Liwa, one to you, the last one is still in the school."

I wielded the heavy Atramentous in my hand, surprised, and said: "The principal went so far as to give me such a treasured thing, this..."

Teacher Zhuang smiled and said: "you don't have to be too thankful, this sword is just like any other sword if used by others. The vice principal said that you trained in black magic, and that you might be able to fully wield the sword's power. The principal said that the black thing doesn't look suspicious at all. Plus you displayed your power, he decided to give it to you."

///DE: The chinese have a tradition of believing something will have good/bad luck depending on its color and look.

No wonder, the sword reacted to me, what I learned is the most original black magic, it is not just any form black magic.

Teacher Zhuang said: "Rumours say that a good sword can recognise its master, i'm not sure whether it has recognised a master in the past, but if it recognises you as it's master, you will be able to bring out its full power."

I nodded and lightly cut my finger using the sharp edges of Black Sable, a drop of blood sunk in the sword, and Black Sable's black glow concentrated and brightened, making me feel very happy. My dark magic was fully brought out by Black Sable and was speedingly flowing into the

sword, and back into my body, making a cycle. After every cycle that was completed, I felt my dark magic was purified by a considerable amount. A bond of flesh and blood was formed between Black Sable and I.

After some time, the black glow slowly darkened, and Black Sable returned to its original state, Teacher Zhuang looked at me: "Looks like it's recognised you as its master."

I lightly stroked the blade and said: "Black Sable, from now on you will be my lifelong partner. Teacher Zhuang, thank you very much for getting me such a great sword."

Teacher Zhuang smiled and said: "Don't worry about it, I still want to thank you for winning the competition for the magic martial department! I said that I would give this to someone only, if he won the first-year tournament in my class, and now I gift him this as a reward, this little box is my gift to you."

I quickly refused: "This Black Sable is already too valuable for you to give me, how can I still take more from you?"

Teacher Zhuang's face became serious and said: "If I said I would give then I will give, quickly take it!" Having spoken, she passed the box to me.

Looking at her serious face I can't help but take it. Teacher Zhuang smiled and said: "open it and see what is inside."

I opened the box and saw, holy shit, unbelievably a bracelet. It has a width of four fingers, on the surface was a crafted dragon in a dark blue color, and there is a circle of sky blue jewels in the center of the bracelet. I counted, there're 8 gems?, it looked very pretty, but i'm a guy, wearing this would be a bit..... I said embarrassed: "Teacher, I bet this is for girls, if I wear it....."

Teacher Zhuang became enraged: "Stupid, what is for girls? People can't get this bracelet even if they begged for it, It's my..... just try and wear it."

I had no choice, I can only put my hand through the bracelet. I tried to fit my hand through, but the hole is too small, I can barely put in four fingers. Teacher Zhuang suddenly murmured an incantation, and the

bracelet let out a dazzling blue light. Shou! the bracelet slipped on my wrist, fitting tightly, like a small wrist guard.

Teacher Zhang proudly smiled: "How is it? Does it fit? You can leave the wrist guard alone, it will increase your magical power when you use magic. It will work best on a level 6 spell, it basically increases the spell's power to another level. If you cast a spell higher than that, it isn't as powerful, but it will still has a definating increasing effect"

What? Increase my magic to another level? That good? So this means that if I use a lvl 6 spell it will have the power of lvl7 spell, and it can even increase the power of a spell that is at an even higher lvl than that. Thinking about it, I try to quickly remove the bracelet, but no matter how I try to do it I can't take it off, its almost as if it grew on me.

# Chapter 6: A Leap in Power

Teacher Zhuang looked at my efforts and stared, she asked: “What are you doing?”

I said: “Teacher, this bracelet is too valuable, please take it back, I really can’t accept it.”

Oddly, Teacher Zhuang did not become angry this time, instead she looked at me cheekily. I made a great effort to remove the bracelet, but no matter how I tried, it couldn’t be removed from my wrist. Teacher Zhuang said: “It’s no use, you need a special incantation to remove it, and without my incantation, you will obediently wear it for the rest for your life, you silly brat.”

Listening to her, my heart felt an unknown emotion. I realised that Teacher Zhuang not only treated her students with kindness, she treated us as her own children. She radiated a maternal warmth.

Teacher Zhuang looked at me, surprised, and asked: “What’s wrong, you don’t like it? Why are you looking at me like that?”

I could feel tears welling up in my eyes, I said: “Teacher Zhuang, thank you, you have let me feel human warmth, I.....”

Teacher Zhuang walked towards me and put her hand in my shoulder, saying: “Child, what’s wrong? Looking at you gives me the feeling that you must have had an unhappy childhood.”

I wiped my tears away and said: “When I was younger, other than my grandmother, no one really cared about me, and my mother never looked in my eyes once. It was alright until my grandmother died a few years ago. At the time, I fell into such a deep despair, that the whole world seemed dark in my eyes. That is, only until I met you and Jisue, only then was I able to see a gleam of light in the dark world. Teacher, can I call you mother?”

Teacher Zhuang blushed and said: “Layson, I would never have thought you to so unfortunate, but with my age I can’t become your mother, but I

can become your elder sister, is that ok?”

If she said I could be her sister so be it, calling a female who's not even married mother is indeed a bit..... I nodded and said: “Sister, thank you.”

Teacher Zhuang said: “You can only call me Sister when nobody is around, just like now. Brother, do you have any plans for this holiday?”

I nodded and said: “I wish to find somewhere quiet and train there for a period of time.”

Teacher Zhang nodded and said: “That's good, you really have a determined heart. Right, about 100 miles from here there is place located called White Smoke Mountain. The height above sea level there is very high, it's also very dangerous, in a normal situation there should be nobody there. You can go there for your training.”

My eyes brightened and I said: “Such a good place, and it's also near the capital, that's great! Please tell me how to get there.”

Teacher Zhang took out a piece of paper, then she drew me a simple map and said to me: “If you follow the map, you will find your way there. Be careful on the journey, although your skills aren't bad, there's always someone better than you. Please try not to cause any trouble. Right, when you reach the mountain how will you find food?”

I thought about it and said: “There should be wild beast or something like that in the area. I can simply hunt those beasts when I reach the mountain. I could even pick some fruits to eat there.”

Teacher Zhang smiled mysteriously: “Well you don't have to, your sister already prepared some good stuff for you.”

I quickly said: “No need, no need, sister has already given so much to me, I couldn't take anymore from you.”

Teacher Zhang took out a small porcelain bottle and said: “It is not valuable anyway, it's just this bottle.”

I looked at the bottle curiously and asked: “What is it?”

Teacher Zhang said: “This is called an Inedia pill, if you eat one pill you

won't starve for a whole day; it'll wholly replenish all of your bodily needs. Although it's not something valuable, it's useful and reliable. There are 200 pills inside this bottle, if you don't use all of them, keep the extra. Sister has the recipe for them so if I need more I can just make them myself."

I'm surprised and happily said: "There is actually something so good. I'll help myself then!"

Teacher Zhang watched me put the Inedia pills away and said: "Did you clear up your misunderstanding with Jisue?" She couldn't help but recall the moment when she kissed my cheek, and her face reddened.

I sighed and said: "I'll solve it when I come back. Without absolute strength, whatever I say would be disregarded. I already told the circumstances of our fight to her father, she will probably understand."

Teacher Zhuang smiled and said: "Although your sister does not have much love experience, I feel that you are right, power strengthens your words. My only advice is to be true to yourself. Sister will root for you." I was surprised. I thought that with sister's looks, many men would chase after her. Even though I was curious, I refrained from asking in order to not embarrass her.

I nodded. I then grabbed Teacher Zhuang's hand and said " Sister, I'm leaving, take care." I turned away to leave but then realised something: "Right, could you please tell Jisue to feed black dragon for me? Black Dragon will only allow Jisue to feed him.

Teacher smiled while nodding and said: "You must come back before the new term starts. Until then i'll be waiting to see a whole new you. Don't force yourself too much when you train, or you may risk injury.

"I understand. Sister. Good bye!" I put Black Sable in the leather sheath teacher had prepared for me earlier. Carrying it on my back, I left her office.

I first went back to the dorms to wash my clothes. Fenyun and twins had already left, I think they had already left for their homes. I walked to the school entrance. Looking at the big words- Sky City academy, I felt a



little sad. I'll be leaving, school. Jisue, I'm leaving.

After I had disappeared in the horizon, two shadows with purple hair arrived at the entrance of the school.

"Sister, do you think he has already left?"

"It's hard to conclude."

"It's all my fault, I misunderstood him. He must be mad at me. Oh sister, what should I do? I truly really loved him, I...."

"Let's not talk about this right now. Lets go inside and search for him, he may not have left yet."

The two shadows flashed into the school, and shortly afterwards, they came back.

"Sister, he left..."

"Little sister, don't be sad, he'll be back. Didn't father say that Layson didn't blame you? He only hoped to clear up the misunderstanding."

"It's all my fault, why didn't I trust him?"

"Enough, It's just one guy, why do you stretch yourself to such great lengths for him? Sigh... his horse is still here, taking good care of it should be enough. Let's go home. The holiday isn't long, only two months." but it

"Sister, you have not experienced love's pull, how could you know my pain?"

.....

Their voices slowly disappeared along the path and gradually disappeared into the distance. If I was still here, I would have recognised them, as they were Jiyan and Jisue, the duke's' daughters.

.....

After leaving the capital, I followed Teacher Zhuang's map. I looked for the deserted shortcuts and used a flight spell to speed up my journey. I

took short breaks when nobody was around and tested Black Sable's limits. I discovered that when I channeled black magic into Black Sable, its power increased substantially. With a casual swing, it immediately unleashed a black shock wave that felled three big trees as thick as a grown man. I assumed that as my Demonic Arts improve, Black Sable's power will also improve.

Traveling by foot couldn't be compared to travelling with Black Dragon. Even when I used flying magic, I had only travelled 50 miles in the entire day. As the sky started darkening, I stopped to rest in a small town before continuing on my journey tomorrow. I walked the streets, amazed at the number of people out and about. Even if there weren't as many people as in the capital, it is quite lively. I found a very reasonable hotel and decided to stay there for the night. After a day of monotonous travel, I wanted to find some place to relax, thus I found myself leaving the hotel.

It's already very late at night, and the amount of people has decreased. I notice a bar in front of me. It would be the perfect place to relax after a busy day.

I walked into the bar looking around, the design is very simple and unsophisticated. Taking another step inside I see two huge trees in the center of the hall. While I guessed that the trees were fake, the plafond was thoroughly covered with dense layer of leaves, and the environment looked very quiet and tastefully laid out.

A servant walked towards me and asked: "Mister, what do you wish to order?"

I ordered: "Give me a big glass of drink, and some light refreshments or something else."

The servant nodded and left, and I found a seat in a corner. The bar was about a third full, and although there was more people here, the bar remained quiet. If people talked, they lowered their volume, making sure the environment was even more serene.

TL: This is so relaxing... I like this place...

This kind of tranquil environment made me feel very comfortable, and

in just a while, the food and drinks I ordered had arrived. I leaned back in my chair comfortably, eating slowly, a refreshing fragrance continually entered my nose.

Right at this time, the silence was broken as three humans entered from the bar's entrance, the one in the middle was repulsive: both ugly and sly-looking, his face was pale and green. With just one look, I could tell that he's not anyone good, behind him are two tough looking guys, who are probably the bodyguards of the person in the middle.

The moment they entered, the one in the middle shouted: "Waiter! HURRY UP AND BRING THE GREAT ME ALL THE BEST WINE IN YOUR SHOP ALREADY, today I shall drink all I want here."

His loud rough voice immediately incited a large portion of animosity. I am even more than annoyed and was unable to bear it, I grumbled: "Be quiet! If you want to drink find yourself another place, don't yell like a buffoon in here."

The waiter beside me threw me a glance indicating that I should stop. But how could I back down just like that?

When that ugly sly bastard heard me, he shouted: "WHO'S FARTING HERE? GO AND TAKE CARE OF HIM." Seeing this scene, it seemed as if I have returned to the predatory world of the beast country. A cold grin appeared on the edge on my lips. Dealing with this sort of scum is my forte.

The two bodyguards walked towards me, one of them extended his hand, as if he wished to grab me with cattail leaf fan-like hand, he warned: "Was it you who ran your mouth? If you displeased our young master, you are already a piece of dead meat."

I swiftly grabbed his arm tightly and said with a voice like ice: "It's me, so what, you want to fight? Young master? I didn't see any young master, all I saw was a loud barking dog." I then threw him, with one hand, over my head.

The ugly sly guy commanded: "KILL HIM, IT'S ALL ON ME."

The bar owner ran out and begged: "Oh White young master, please, don't cause trouble in my humble shop, can today's debt be settled by me?"

That White young master triangular eyes straightened and he shouted: "F\*\*K OFF, THE GREAT ME HAS BEEN ANGERED, If I said I will kill there's NO WAY he can walk out of here ALIVE. Whoever gets in my way WILL BE KILLED." Saying that, he slapped the owner and the owner rolled and bounced away like a... pig...

Looking at his arrogant face, my head heated up.

I slammed the table, stood up and yelled: "If you have any problems, come at me, don't bother random people."

White young master said: "Fine, you want to be a hero? Today i'll fulfill your puny wish, GET HIM!" Listening to his orders, his two big bodyguards roared with fury and charged at me at the same time. Looking at their movements, I noticed they have indeed trained in some martial arts, but against me, it was as good as nothing. This insignificant White young master, he is definitely a parasite, a detriment to society. Today, I will remove this piece of trash from the society. Thick killing intent poured out from my eyes.

I didn't even dodge the bodyguards' attacks, I let them kicked and punched all over my body, but every time they hit me, the sound of their bones breaking filled the air. Getting tired of their weak attacks, I punched both of them once. The bodyguards flew back into the tables, with blood gushing from their noses. If I were to prolong the fight, I would have wasted more effort. In these punch for punch fights, my super strong defense gave me an ultimate advantage. Just now, I didn't even need to dodge their attacks, and I've terrified my opponents. My victory was assured in the blink of an eye, and my two punches hit their chest at the same time.

The White young master was astonished by the sight of his two bodyguards bloody on the floor. When he noticed that I'm walking towards him step by step, he realized the danger he was in, and with an

unpleasant scream, he turned around and ran out of the bar.

Perhaps he had committed too many bad deeds, but his legs cramped while he ran and he fell on the ground squealing in terror. I walked forward and stepped on him, asking: "Weren't you very wild? Didn't you want to kill me? Huh, well, come on, I'm waiting."

White young master said with eyes full of hatred: "If you dare touch me, my father will not spare your life, he will rip you into million shreds, you won't die a good death!"

At first I didn't want to dirty my hands dealing with this wrench, even now I am still quite reluctant. But listening to his words, my temper flared up once again. I said flatly: "I'm curious as to how your father will do that. " My whole body let out a strong killing intent.

White young master finally realized that I was a threat to his life, his eyes looked terrified. Just when he was about to beg for forgiveness, my foot stepped on his body. Increasing the pressure on his chest, his sternum was crushed to pieces, and he instantly died, his blood gushed from the seven orifices of his head.

I hadn't realized that killing in dragon empire for the first time, almost brought deadly disaster to myself. .

I said with hatred: "His death was too painless."

The bar owner suddenly kneeled on the floor, and cried out: "Disaster! Disaster! The young White master died!"

Listening to his cries, I scolded: "Are you his ancestor? Why do you grieve over him so much?"

The bar owner said: "This traveller is from far away, you didn't know, but White young master is this land's count – White Skye's only son. From a young age, he has been pampered and spoiled, we people here have already gotten used to his behavior long ago. Since sir killed young master, the White count won't let us slip so easily."

Annoyed, I took out a bag of money and threw it to him, I said: "Since you're so afraid of getting into trouble, take this money, and get out of my

sight.”

The bar owner delightfully took the money, turning around and running. I saw the customers hurriedly scattering and fleeing in all directions, but I just wanted go back to my seat and continue eating peacefully. However, before I could eat, a customer pulled my clothes, gesturing towards the exit and advised: “Brother, you should leave quickly, it’s impossible to fight the white landlord. Today you’ve eliminated the scumbag, we are all very grateful so we can’t let you lose your life here.”

I questioned: “Is the White count that formidable?”

The customer nodded and continued: “The White count is a retired dragon knight, to whom was given this land as a reward. Although the empire took his dragon back, in this place, he’s just like the emperor, no one dares offend him.”

I was dumbfounded and said: “ Retired dragon knight?” Who would have thought that a dragon knight has such privilege in the dragon empire, even though he’s retired he can still become a count.

The customer said: “Yes, hurry up and leave, rumors say that his strength is close to that of a Light Knight. Even without his dragon, I’m afraid you’re no match for him, on top of that, he has 3000 warriors under his command. Quick, before the news spreads, it is not too late to leave right now!”

True, even without his dragon, I still can’t possibly rival a dragon knight, this point, I’m still very clear about. Sitting around and waiting to get killed is not my habit. I nodded and said to the customer: “Thank you for telling me about it, you should quickly leave too.”

I speedily returned to the hotel to pack my things, then I left the city in the middle of the night.

Due to the White young master’s wickedness, therefore, no one told the landlord his death news. Only until the second day, the news spread to his ears.

White Skye took his armies to the hotel. When he saw his only son’s

tragic death, he couldn't suppress the tears that flowed on his face. However he never realized that his pampering of his son was what caused his death. His mind was filled with intense hatred, he loudly roared: "No matter whether it's till the ends of worlds, I will find you, AND I SHALL USE YOUR BLOOD TO PAY TRIBUTE TO MY SON'S SOUL."

At that moment, on the road I shuddered. I couldn't help but smile bitterly: "It seems that someone is cursing me." I regretted not listening to my sister's advice, since I couldn't restrain myself, I had to run away like a dog with it's tail between its legs. I shook my head, continuing on my journey at a noticeably faster pace.

After walking the entire night, I have reached the white smoke mountain early in the morning. As sister (///AN: Teacher Zhuang) said, it's indeed surrounded by wreath of white smoke, and the humidity of this area is very high. I followed a meandering mountain path up the mountain. On the way, I would sometimes run into small beasts. For my own safety, I held Black Sable, ready in my hands, it's black aura radiating an ice-cold feeling that refreshed my mental state.

Because it's early morning, it was misty inside the mountain. Even when I had climbed halfway up the mountain, I could barely see 3 metres in front me. After each step I took, a hu~ hu~ sound was made, as the humid mist blew past me. It felt like I was going through a blanket of clouds. After walking another 300 meters up the mountain, I finally left the clouds, and was confronted with a beautiful sight. The sun has just risen on the horizon, and the sunlight reflected on the clouds that covered the mountain. The clouds looked like gigantic cotton candy, layers upon layers of pinkish red mist. It was so beautiful that I simply couldn't take it all in.

I looked up and saw the peak of the mountain piercing through the sky. It seems that I have not even reached a third of the way up the mountain. I did not need to reach the top, just a quiet place that allows me to train and relax. The scenery here is quite nice, and there seems to be no one around, so I settled there.

I found a considerably flat land on top of a hill. I've decided to use the

mad god's chi to punch a gigantic hole through the mountain wall, forming a cave, roughly 6 metres deep and about 2 metres high. For safety purposes, I made the entrance smaller, an uneven entrance with a height of only one metre and 1 metre width. After that I cut down 2 trees far away, using Black Sable to cut them apart into wooden piles, plank bedding the platform of the cave, a simple temporary base/camp is completed.

I spent my entire day making this cave, but I am quite satisfied with the result. I dug the floor so that it was slanted towards the entrance so that the rain wouldn't come in. I lay down on the wooden planks and ate an Inedia pill. I don't have a lot of time, I am only here for two months, I should start training as soon as possible to increase my strength as much as possible.

I immediately stood up, left the cave, and found vines which could block the cave's entrance. I then cast a barrier on the entrance using my Demonic Arts. This should be enough to deter any beast from unwittingly entering the cave. Since everything is prepared, I started to train in isolation.

.....

Twenty days have passed since I started my closed door training. Ever since I went berserk, I have noticed a lot of changes in my body. My training speed of my Mad God chi is like that of a god. I have nearly reached the third tier, and although I have not broken through yet, I can sense that I will break through soon. But my Demonic Arts have not improved at all. In the last twenty days, it has stayed static. I have been stuck at the peak of the third tier; unable to make the breakthrough that would allow me to change my form into that of a two winged fallen angel. I tried to breakthrough the bottleneck forcefully and almost got processed by my magic. I didn't dare attempt to forcefully breakthrough again. In the blink of an eye, more than a month has passed, but my progress had



not improved and I grew more and more irritated.

Early one morning, I stood at the edge of the plateau, looking down at the sea of clouds which covered the mountain. I thought about how I could breakthrough the bottleneck, but couldn't come up with an answer. I decided to take a break from training, as both my Demonic Arts and Mad God chi had reached a bottleneck. Breaking through bottlenecks is not an easy task at all.

I start to think about Jisue, I wonder if the duke clearly explain the misunderstanding... I'm so lonely, I wonder what I will do in the future... Should I stay in the dragon empire as a human? or go back to the Bi Meng tribe as a beastman? Sigh... my heart is a mess, i can't even decide my own future. The duke once said that I should build a goal for myself, a dream I wish to accomplish... What is my dream? Although I'm young, I am tired of the constant killing and fighting that occurs all the time. I wish that the three races would live in peace. I would be able to find a place to grow old with Jisue. But is it possible for me to make Humans, Beasts, and Demons to coexist in peace? What difference could my strength make? Any random dragon knight could kill me with a flick of his finger.

I still must return to the Beast Country, no matter what happens, it is still my homeland. Compared to the dragon empire, the beast country is far worse off, and if it continues to develop this way, the entire country may be destroyed. Even though I have never met a demon, I am still one third demon; my grandmother was a part of the Demonic Royal Family. I have ties to all three races, and helping only one of them would not be the best idea.

So what is my aim? At the very least I wish to change the beast country's current situation; eliminate the bad habits. The best way to face those with low intelligence is to crush them with brute force; as I thought about crushing the beastmen, my eyes flash with a cold light.

If I help the beast country grow as strong as the dragon empire, the three sides would be balanced, and the war may end. But I don't want to be any generic 'hero', I would like to be an undefeatable

incomprehensibly powerful being that does as he wishes. I have decided, I will only return to the beast country when i have achieved success. Even though I hate it, I must help the beast country grow strong. After the beast clan matures, I might go to the demon clan. I can't let any one country grow stronger than the other two combined. Only when all three countries are equally formidable, and peace reigns will my mission be complete.

That's right, my aim is to become the strongest being and use my power to change the relationship between the races, allowing all races to coexist peacefully together. I feel that this dream is big enough to last me for a lifetime. I may not be able to finish this dream in my lifetime. But to achieve this goal, my strength is insufficient. Thinking of ways to solve this problem, my eyes suddenly brightened. If one man's strength is not enough, why not find companions who have the same goal and work with them? If we succeed we could bring peace and harmony to all of the races of this world. (Due to the decision I made today, 'Our group' will become the fourth great power that will influence the decisions of the three races, and so started my great climb onto the stage of history)

Thinking this through, I felt that everything has become clear and sanguine. It felt great, and just then, the sun broke through the clouds, slowly rising up into the sky. Raising my head, I howled at the sky, my whole body's power was agitated and flowed through my body with the howl. My Mad God chi and Demonic Arts separated into inner and outer energy and cycled through my body at an incredible speed. Two flows of air, one black and one yellow, surrounded my body and churned crazily. The surrounding clouds were forced away by the incredibly strong flow of air and I felt my whole body's blood boil.

I know that this was the right time, and I stopped my howl and sat on my knees and without moving from the spot, allowed the two energies to cycle on their own. My body's meridians swelled with immeasurable power and my entire body felt like a gigantic balloon. My Demonic Arts, originating from behind the eyebrows and circulated through my brain. My Mad God chi, started from the dantian and cycled through my body

madly.

During the 99th cycle, the two powers meet at the point behind my eyebrows, and my body felt like it had exploded. All of my meridians changed, and the originally full meridian channels seemed to be empty and wide. I knew that my meridian channels were once again empty and widen, and I felt an indescribable light and comforting feeling. The yellow and black energies continued to cycle. I am madly delighted, not only did my Demonic Arts break through the third tier, my Mad God chi had also done the same!

I slowly replaced the two energies in their original places. While my Demonic Arts and Mad God chi did not stop cycling, the speed was lowered. In other words, even if I don't focus on training them in the future, they will continue to grow.

I opened my eyes and realized that night had fallen, if someone was around, they would have seen the two flashes of lightning that flashed in the dark night. If they looked closely, they would see that those flashes of lightning came from my eyes.

I opened up my book of Demonic Arts and chanted: "Darkness condense in thy Soul, To have Fallen is to be Freed, Awaken: Myriad of magical powers that hast slept in myst Blood." The black magic that had just calmed, was agitated again, spiking along with my incantation. I felt an icy cold spike in my brain, and I couldn't hold it in and painfully moaned. My green hair turned black, and my skin became crystal white. My body's muscles bulged and I felt a huge spike of pain from my back. My whole body felt like it was being torn apart, and a pair of wings approximately two meters long spread out from behind my back. Black magic spread out over my entire body and it is distinctly surrounded by a distinct black aura. But the most interesting thing is that the mad god battle chi is also completely merged with the black magic; I feel that my black magic has mad god chi mixed into it. This is the first time I have felt so powerful. Suddenly, the Black Sable that was behind me let out a cheerful sound and with a 'shou' it flew through the sky, I thought about chasing after it and I found myself beside Black Sable, I couldn't even get used to my own

speed!

I grabbed Black Sable and instilled it with black magic. Black Sable let out a strong black light. Again, just thinking about moving caused my body to once again return to the ground. A glimmer of coldness was showing on my face, I felt no emotions, and my brain was incomparably clear. This form probably gave me the best battle capabilities.

I let out another howl, and transferred my black magic into Black Sable. With a jump, my wings opened wide and I flew 10 meters into the sky. Wielding Black Sable with both hands, I instilled my strength into the sword and slashed at the ground. The slash created a black chain that gently flew towards the ground, and with a 'hong' noise, the trees were scattered, splattering in every direction. The body of the mountain now had a pit that was 1.5 meters deep and 16 meters long.

I burst into laughter and cackled at the sky madly. I had finally succeeded, all these years of effort haven't been wasted. I was able to attain the power of a fallen angel. I no longer have to fear Liwa. I tested the Strike of the Mad God with my sword. Even though my Mad God chi had been blended with my black magic, the attacks' power was not negatively affected in the slightest, in fact it could be comparable to its' power during my berserk transformation. Since I broke through the third tier of my Mad God Chi, I was able to use the Mad God's Third Fist: Violent Dance of a Mad Dragon.

Since I was able to achieve my goal, I prepared to leave, finding a large rock and blocking the cave entrance. I started going down the mountain.

Originally I wanted to climb up the mountain further and take a look, then I gave up the idea because I missed Jisue too much. I did not know that I had missed another opportunity to advance my power, but that story is for another time.

After going down the mountain, I followed the previous route back. I was carried away by the joy of my increased power, and completely forgot about the incident I caused in the small town. I remembered as I walked into the town, I reasoned that if I passed through quickly there wouldn't

be any trouble. And even if we met, I may even be as powerful as him. After attaining the fallen angel transformation, I couldn't help but feel a little arrogant.

I successfully passed through the town. Just as I thought that it seemed that the White Sky duke had left to find me in other places, a heavenly shaking noise made from a storm of footsteps and shouts of 'Kill' was made. Damn, I realized that I was surrounded.

A large amount of the dragon empire's soldiers poured at me from all sides, the man in front of me- wearing a white armor holding a spear, charged at me. He had an imposing manner which swelled with inordinate arrogance and gave me a terrifying amount of pressure. I know, this fight is unavoidable, and the opponent in front of me, is probably the town's landlord- White Skye.

White Skye's horse halted at 10 metres in front of me, and I saw his face clearly. This man truly proved himself worthy of being the former dragon knight; his height didn't lose to mine, although all his hair has become white, his back was straight and bolt upright, his entire demeanor looked like a staff of loaded dart.

# Chapter 7: Crimson Angel

The count shouted “Halt” and the underlings who were encroaching towards me halted. He roared at me angrily: “Kid, were you the one who killed my son?”

I glanced around at the soldiers before refocusing on the count, snickering coldly I replied: “ I assume you are the count, White Skye, if so, then yes I crushed him to death.”

White Skye was so angry that he laughed, and said: “You already knew who I was yet you still dared to kill my only son? Today, I shall bury you with him.”

I grinned coldly: “Spoil the child, blame the father. You should be glad that I killed that scumbag son for you, erasing that mark of shame from your family.”

White Skye let out a forlorn moan. He suddenly disappeared and reappeared right at my side, holding his spear firmly. His chi produced a ‘pu’ ‘pu’ sound in the air. White Skye’s strength was really close to that of a Light Knight. While he was not as relaxed or elegant as the duke, he was far more ruthless.

I knew that if I tried to face Skye head on, I wouldn’t survive to tell the tale nine out of ten times. Even if I somehow managed to defeat him, I would be too exhausted to break through the soldiers encircling me. In the blink of an eye, I made my decision. I chose to defend.

I tried to dodge White Skye’s thrust by moving to the right at high speed. Although I evaded the spear, my arm emitted a searing pain as I was brushed by the chi which was surrounding his spear. If anyone else had taken that attack, I’m afraid that their arm would have been completely crippled.

Using the time I bought dodging his attack, I started to chant: “Darkness condense in thy Soul, To have fallen is to have been freed, Awaken: Myriad of magical powers that hast slept in myst Blood.” This time, the transformation was much smoother. My body let out a black

aura and I instantly transformed into a two winged fallen angel. I immediately unsheathed Black Sable to block the spear that was rushing towards me.

White Skye staggered for a moment and said: "You are a Fallen Angel from the demon clan!!!"

I coldly laughed: "That's right, if you're scared then get lost. I might spare your life."

White Skye narrowed his eyes: "Being a Fallen Angel does not change anything, do not forget I am also a Dragon Knight. You will not leave here alive!"

I laughed loudly, and said with a voice full of scorn: "You are nothing but a shadow of your former glory. Where is your Dragon? Where? I am sure you know the result of this battle better than I do; a Dragon Knight without a dragon cannot rival a Fallen Angel."

White Skye suddenly showed a sinister smile, he suddenly retreated and shouted "GET HIM!"

I was taken aback. Even though I know that Skye wished to exhaust me with his underlings, these small fries wouldn't even be able to take one hit from me in my normal form.

White Sky had the guards surround me, all of them trying to kill me. While he only brought three hundred personal guards, these guards were all extremely skilled. They were all handpicked by the count over the years; and the weakest of the guards were at least of the middle tier.

I figured something was wrong as soon as I started fighting. A slash of my sword would only kill five soldiers, and injure a few more. That attack was not as smooth as I assumed it would be. They continued to charge at me in waves, and like the ocean battering a rock, I continued to attack and defend against them. All this time White Skye stood off to the side, coolly watching his soldiers get slaughtered.

I used Hurricane to its full potential; Every time I hit the ground, the ground exploded nearby. The attack was impossible to block, and with

each usage the amount of deaths continued to increase.

I beat my wings to fly up into the air as I chanted: “With my soul as the sacrifice, oh great God of Darkness, I request thee, lend me thy Fire of Hell, usest its infinite demonic power to exterminate and annihilate all beings that livest before me. Black Fire” It was a level five Black Magic spell that rains black fire down upon its enemies. This fire is almost indestructible and will continue to burn until the target dies. For some reason, the bracelet that Teacher Zhuang gave me didn’t increase the power of this magic.

White Skye finally made a move, he leaped into the sky and his spear turned into countless shadows, blocking out even the sunlight. His silver chi spread out in all directions and extinguished most of the black fire I had created. In this moment, he displayed both his strength and cunning; he was able to dissolve my attack, and force me back into the encirclement.

Just when I was about to attack the count, a brave warrior jumped in front of me and blocked me from going further. I was furious, all their courageous actions lit the fire of fury in my heart. I pushed my Mad Demonic Power to it’s limits and pounced on one soldier after another. Every soldier I came across looked like they had gone through a meat grinder when I was done with them.

In an hours time, the road was filled with all kinds of corpses and torn limbs. Of the 300 personal guards, not one survived, every single one of them died at my hands. If I had faced this attrition tactic in the past, I would have died, but since I trained my Demonic Arts to the 4th tier, I survived. But that wasn’t to say that the battle was easy, I had already lost a lot of my energy, I just had enough energy to stand my ground. I had to use Black Sable to keep myself from falling down. I looked at White Skye with cold eyes and scorned: “You are despicable, you sacrificed all your subordinates using this attrition tactic to tire me.”

White Skye said with disdain: “What’s wrong with using attrition tactics? If I can attain the final victory, do the methods matter? Brothers, take care on your way to hell, I will avenge you all very soon.” White



Skye's spear turned into an arc of lightning and it stabbed at me with great speed.

Although I was tired, I still tried to block his spear with Black Sable. But it seemed that I was too exhausted. I blocked the physical spear, but the chi grazed me on the shoulder. I took a few steps back as White Skye landed on the ground. He looked surprised as he asked: "Brat, your skin is really thick. Are you a new type of Fallen Angel? Anyways, It has not been long since you have awakened, so even without my dragon, you wouldn't be able to win against me in a fair fight. Die!"

White Skye spoke the truth, his spear work and marksmanship were on a whole different level. The spear would appear and disappear in quick succession and his chi was abnormally sharp. Even with the toughness of my defense, I wouldn't dare take his attacks head on. After a few attacks, my body was full of gashes, cuts, and wounds. If this continues, then there is only one outcome, my death.

White Skye suddenly stopped attacking me and said: "Brat, I admit you are tough, but now I will be taking your life." His spear suddenly pointed towards the sky and a powerful silver chi shaped like water snakes was emitted by his body. Countless snakes appeared and settled in the surroundings as he shouted: "Take my hidden technique—Silver Snake Wild Dance." He leaped into the air, and his spear transformed into the form of countless snakes, covering the sky as they all pounced towards me.

A little before he had finished accumulating energy for his attack, I condensed what was left of my power and used my wings to fly up in the air. I then transferred my entire body's strength into Black Sable. I shouted "Violent Dance of the Mad Dragon!" just when White Skye released his hidden technique. I let Black Sable lead my body through the attack, as I wildly spun, transforming into a torrent of bared fangs and brandished claws like that of a Black Dragon to attack my opponent.

The two attacks violently collided in the air. The thirty meter area below us was filled with an outburst of air from the shockwave of our two forces colliding. Immediately afterwards, I dropped from the sky, falling

like a meteorite into the ground, creating a crater centered around my body.

White Sky's face was pale as he fell to the ground six meters away from me. Although my attack made him suffer some damage, he was a lot better off than I was. He was able to support his body with his spear and say with a voice full of hatred: "You suffered six heavy blows from me... you should definitely be dead... Ah?"

While he spoke, he discovered my body slowly crawling out from the crater. Indeed, I had been struck by the count six times, and my body was covered in blood. The only reason I survived was the strong defense I inherited from the Beamon tribe, which prevented White Skye's chi from invading into my flesh. I sustained some deep wounds and some of my bones were visible, but it still was not enough to kill me.

White Skye instinctively took two steps back. He had never thought that anyone could endure such heavy blows from him and still survive; not even a Fallen Angel.

Black Sable was lying somewhere far away. Every part of my body was convulsing with pain, but I still did not give up. After my transformation into a Fallen Angel, my head was kept clear. Having a clear mind is one of the reasons why a Fallen Angel can rival a Dragon Knight. A dying fallen Angel may turn the tables on a Dragon Knight who let down his guard, thinking that the battle had already been won. Resulting in great damage to both sides.

White Skye also seemed to have realized this too and he swiftly backed away even further while cautiously looking at me.

I had next to no power left in my body and I was utterly unable to fight any longer. I stood there staring at him, while doing everything I could to scrounge up some power and speed up my body's recovery.

After staring at me unmoving for a while, White Skye saw that something was odd. He suddenly appeared at my side and used the stick of his spear, smashed my back. My body flew forwards and did not stop until I hit a tree beside the road.

All the power that I had gathered during the pause in the battle, were dispersed by White Skye's blow. The energy in my meridian channels\* were completely messed up and scattered. And blood constantly seeped from my mouth. My body was at its' limit.

White Skye pursued me while laughing loudly, pointing his spear at me he ridiculed: "I thought you had some trick up your sleeve, but it turned out that you are nothing more than an arrow at the end of its flight! Die kid." He lunged forward and stabbed his spear at my head. Even though my defense is strong, I would not be able to survive if I was hit by that attack.

At the borderline of life and death, I pushed my body to it's limit, desperately exerting my utmost strength to roll over in order to avoid this fatal attack.

White Skye did not stop his pursuit. One spear thrust after another came aiming at my vitals. My body was already refusing to follow my brain. I just barely managed to avoid having my vitals hit, instead the attacks created deep wounds all over my body.

White Skye continued to pursue me saying: "You little hybrids are really durable, I will see how long you can last. Today you will die by dismemberment! I'll cut your flesh apart piece by piece and make you regret ever living!" However the count did not anticipate that his taunting would bring about his own death.

White Skye's words echoed in my ears. I felt my entire body rapidly rise to a boiling temperature; I could not stand how people called me a hybrid, does a hybrid not deserve life? I let out a deafening roar and pushed against the the ground sending me seven meters away. My wings covered with black feathers, were spread completely open. I maintained my balance and I stared at the count with flames of hatred.

My eyes, black due to the transformation into a Fallen Angel, turned red, followed by my hair and starting from the root to the feathers of the wings. I am no longer a Fallen Angel but a Crimson Angel. The various wounds on my body started healing at a rapid pace. My hair fluttered in

the still air. Even I did not know I could go berserk while being transformed as a Fallen Angel. It was supposed to be impossible to go berserk, since Fallen Angels are always clear minded, so there was no way to experience emotion, much less become deranged like I do while going berserk.

Even so White Skye's words made the deepest and darkest emotions rise from the bottom of my heart. Causing the flames of fury to explode out at once, allowing me to go berserk.

White Skye was stunned by my mutation, he murmured: "You...Wha, what kind of monster are you?"

My voice was as cold as ten thousand pieces of dark ice, filled with desolation as I said: "You detestable human, go die." My body turned into a flash of lightning and charged at White Skye. White Skye unconsciously lifted his long spear in an attempt to block my attack, but the spear was reduced to dust due to my overpowering force. I penetrated past him and in a second I was 33 meters behind White Skye, his entire body exploded, leaving a rain of blood where he stood.

I remained barely conscious, but I realized that I shouldn't stay here for very long. I picked up Black Sable and promptly fled a long distance away.

My speed has increased to an unimaginable speed, the scenery flew past my ears, making a hu~ hu~ sound. I maintained a straight flight path, breaking through any obstacles that stood in my way. No impediment hindered me for even a second.

After a long time, my berserk blood slowly cooled down. My entire body weakened while I was still in mid air, I fell, unconscious before I hit the ground.

.....

I woke up feeling an incredibly intense pain coming from all over my body. I soon discovered that I couldn't even move one finger. The battle with White Skye was clear and distinct, I remembered how the wounds on my body recovered when I transformed into a Crimson Angel. What I fear is the condition of my internal wounds.

All of my meridian channels\* were completely blocked. Some channels had become displaced, causing abnormal pains all over my body. I could only move my body slightly while enduring the pain. Transforming placed a huge burden on my body, and two transformations at the same time would increase the strain on the body even more. I successfully killed White Skye but only at the price of injuring my body greatly.

I managed to deal with the pain enough to take out a Inedia pill and stuff it into my mouth. Then I closed my eyes and quietly circulated my chi to see if I could dredge my meridian channels. But I found that this did not help much, my magical powers and chi were abnormally disordered. Every time I tried to circulate my energy, it got stuck and clogged at every meridian channel. Not only that but the amount of energy that I possessed was so small that it was pitiful. I become scared; will my life be wasted just like this?

NO! No, I won't. I still have my dream to accomplish, how can I just let myself waste away right now, right here?

For some reason, I looked towards my side. I could see Black Sable lying close by through the pure white moonlight. I used my hands and legs, and with difficulty I started crawling towards it. My dearest friend, even if I die, I will die with you in my hand.

I had not even crawled for twice before I fainted from the intense pain. When I woke up, I continued to crawl towards Black Sable. The distance was so short, not even 10 meters, but I had already fainted six times just trying to crawl to it. At long last, I successfully pounced on Black Sable' body. I lay on top of it with a satisfied smile on my face and fainted for the seventh time.

A cold presence flowed into my chest, comforting me in my depression. I slowly opened my eyes and felt that I was lying on top of Black Sable, a freezing aura was coming from it. I dared to hope again, and used my consciousness to direct the icy cold presence into my dantian. I hoped to clear my meridian channels using Black Sable. But Black Sable' power was weak, clearing one meridian channel took an abnormally long time, seven days and seven nights. And that was just to clear one tiny channel

in my dantian. My black magic absorbed the remains of my energy and started to produce more dark energy.

I knew with the severity of my condition, I could not recover in a short amount of time. It was best that I calmed down, and continuously clear my blocked channels with what little energy I had.

I spent one month slowly clearing my meridian channels. Although I had only recovered less than twenty percent of my meridian channels, I can already move without feeling any pain. I just need to avoid using chi and my body should not experience any more of that wracking pain.' During this month, I became thinner.(one round thinner)

TL: Chinese way of measurement of body (round).Very descriptive, no specific measurement.

It is about the time that school starts, so there is no more time for me to recover. I managed to find a mountain stream to clean the dirt off my back. I took out a new set of clothes from my backpack and changed into them. I hastily began my journey back to school. This experience has made me thirst for power even more than before. I swore to be strong enough to control the power of a Crimson Angel transformation. If one day I can become a Four Winged Crimson Angel at will, nobody on the continent could oppose me.

Even though I had recovered somewhat, walking was still difficult. It was just a journey of one day, but it took me four days to complete it.

At long last, I saw the Sky City Academy once again. Supporting myself with Black Sable, I dragged my feet inside. Once i passed the the school entrance, I went straight to teacher Zhuang's office.

I arrived only to find no one in the office. I sat at the stairs, strenuously circulating my body's two lumps of weak energy (I only retrieved a very small amount of Mad God qi and Dark magical power, so I distributed them into two parts) to flow into the paths of six blocked meridian channels. Along with the circulation of energy, my body felt a lot more comfortable. In the afternoon, Teacher Zhuang finally returned, and when she saw me nearly fall down while sitting on the stairs she was

flabbergasted.

She quickly supported me with one hand and asked anxiously: “Layson, what’s happened to you?”

I looked at her weakly and replied: “Sister, let’s talk in your office.”

Teacher Zhuang nodded, she rushed to open the office’s door and went in while supporting me. Sitting on the chair, I felt a little more comfortable. Teacher Zhuang asked: “Brother, what’s wrong? When you returned a few days late, I knew, something must have happened to you. So what on earth has happened? Hurry up and tell me.”

I softly sighed, and I answered: “I was too impatient when I trained and caused qigong deviation. If not for my incredible luck, I would not have been able to come back here to meet you.” I thought about this excuse beforehand since the body condition I have right now is similar to qigong deviation.

///TL: qigong deviation is a Chinese term traditionally used to indicate that something has gone wrong in martial arts training, believed to result from “improper practice” of qigong and other self-cultivation techniques.

Teacher Zhuang was terrified. She abruptly pulled my hand over and pressed on my vein, checking for my pulse. When I saw her eyebrows frown, I knew that she couldn’t do anything to help my body condition.

Teacher Zhuang let go of my hand and frowned: “Your meridian channels are very disordered, even with my power I can’t identify your body conditions clearly.”

I shook my head and said: “Sister, you don’t have to feel troubled for me. I will slowly dredge the meridian channels myself. The pace of clearing my meridians has already increase a lot compared to when I started.( With every meridian channel cleared, my power will increases a little, and dredging the next channel will be a lot easier.)”

Teacher Zhuang nodded and said: “Let me ask the vice principal to check on you, there must be a way to treat you.” Without waiting for my reply, she ran out. Sister’s concern for me is truly from the bottom of her

heart, making my heart felt nice and warm. I know, I'm no longer a lonely and helpless human, demon, and beast mixed-breed.

In a short while, Teacher Zhuang and the vice principal barged in. The vice principal went into a rage the second he saw me: "You brat, is training something you can rush through? You didn't stick to the basics and proceed step by step and see what happens? Mishap. Now let me have a look." As he spoke, he grabbed my wrist checking for my pulse.

Vice principal let go of my hand and said: "Your training is mainly focussed on black magic, and I have never seen chi like yours. Your body's meridian channels are 70 percent clogged, I'm surprised that you were able walk back alive, giggle all you want you little brat. I can't do anything to improve your condition either, you can only depend on your own power. How about this, I'll prepare a meditation room for you, and Teacher Zhuang will be in charge of sending you food everyday. You can recover there by yourself. If there are any questions, you can come and ask me or Xiao Zhuang. Oh Xiao Zhuang, don't tell anyone about Layson's condition, I will personally report this to the principle. Layson, you are our academy's star of hope, you must recover as soon as possible, don't worry about other unimportant things."

TL: Xiao means little. It's a way of addressing people younger than you casually.

I nodded and said: "Thank you sir, vice principal. I'll be more careful the next time I train."

Vice principal sighed and said amiably: "You are a good kid, very determined. You must understand that raising your power is not something that can be done in short period of time. Progress is only made in an orderly way; it would be best if you improved step by step."

I said gratefully: "As you wish sir."

The vice principal said: "While there are fewer people moving about, follow me. I'll bring you to my place so that you can peacefully rest."

I followed the vice principal to his resting place. This is a small one-story building suited for one person. He brought me to the basement and



said: "This place is well ventilated, although it is a little simple and crude, it's quite an appropriate place for you to recover. These kind of qigong deviation injuries can only be recovered in silence, that's why I didn't send you to the hospital. Everyday xiao Zhuang will tend to your needs."

I said: "This place is already very good. I will try hard to train myself and recover my body to it's peak condition as soon as possible."

The vice principal said: "You cannot be hasty while treating this injury. Wait until you have recovered around fifty to sixty percent of your meridian channels before going back to your classes. Sigh..... I'm afraid you will be spending this term in recovery. Actually, the principal and I were going to let you in the Sky Dragon Team, but as it is now, I'm afraid that it is not possible anymore. We will talk about it more next term." An expression of regret and compassion flowed out from his face.

After the vice principal left, I lay on the bed and rested. The vice principal is really nice to me, letting me use this basement so that I can comfortably heal my injuries. I started to wonder about Jisue; how is she? Damn that old man White Skye, if it wasn't for him, I would have been able to meet Jisue right now, and perhaps I could even clear up our misunderstanding.

I hasten the two powers, each flowing into different meridian channels, and started my recovery process.

...

Two months later, my body's condition had dramatically improved; I had opened up most of my meridian channels and only a few meridians needed to be repaired. I had recovered 60 percent of my energy. Today as always, Teacher Zhuang delivered my food. I said: "Sister, my injuries are a lot better now, please inform the principal that I wish to go back to class. It has been two months since school started, if I don't go now, I will fall too far behind."

Teacher Zhuang smiled and asked: "Have you really gotten better?"

I nodded seriously and answered: "My power has been restored to about 60 percent or so."

Teacher Zhuang pressed my pulse, feeling my body's energy fluctuation, she said while being amazed: "Such strong power and it is only 60 percent of power? It seemed you didn't get a qigong deviation for nothing. If you are wholly recovered, your strength will be increased to a whole new level." This is due to my Demonic Arts and Mad God Arts both breaking through a tier. But my power increased the most from my Demonic Arts, which broke through a difficult level. Even with the 60% I have recovered right now, I'm stronger than I was when I fought Liwa in the competition.

I said: "Perhaps it's due to a stroke of good luck. During qigong deviation, my chi changed a bit, moving up a tier."

Teacher Zhuang asked: "What kind of chi do you practice? To move up such a large amount as a tier from a qigong deviation. If all chi responded to qigong deviations like yours, I would experience it myself."

I smiled bitterly: "Do you think qigong deviation is comfortable? If it wasn't for my good luck, I might not be able to meet you again, much less improve my chi. Also my chi is only suitable to be practiced and learned by men. Sister is so beautiful, it would be a shame if your appearance changed due to learning this chi.

Teacher Zhuang chuckled: "Then about forget it, I'll go back and tell the vice principal. Oh right, Jisue has been coming to ask me whether you have come back or not every single day. I avoided telling you so that it wouldn't affect your recovery. The way she was looking for you, it seems that the misunderstanding was cleared up age ago. Hurry up and find her soon."

Sending teacher Zhuang away, I continued to heal. After training for a little while, but Jisue kept lingering in my heart making me unable to calm down.

.....

The next day, I was "released" by the vice principal. He asked a few questions and let me go back to my class.

When I walked into the classroom, I caused an uproar. After finding and getting back to my seat, Hoxin asked: "Layson my brother, where did you

run off to? You actually came back to class two months late!"

I smiled bitterly: "It's hard to tell everything at once so I'll tell you all about it when there's a chance."

Due to my challenge against Liwa during my school days, I now had a little fame in the academy. Right after the first class ended, the students in my class surrounded me and asked all kinds of questions, especially the girls. In the end, I had no choice but to put on a cold face to scare them all away.

Just when I let out a sigh of relief, the door to the classroom burst open. My eyes followed the direction everyone was looking. There I found Jisue standing at the entrance with a pale face. She was a little thinner than before. Looking at her haggard appearance pained my heart. I stood up and sped towards her, Jisue also rushed towards me and jumped into my arms and started crying.

I hugged her waist, too emotional to speak a word.

We stood there hugging each other until we heard teacher Zhuang's cough, on which we split up embarrassed. Jisue's face was as red as a ripe apple, lowering her voice she said: "After school in the afternoon, let's meet in the canteen." Finished speaking, she turned and ran out.

Teacher Zhuang walked to my side, said softly(whispered): "Brother, next time be careful in school. After all there are rules regarding relationships. Jisue, is not a bad girl, treasure her well. Right now go back to your seat, class is starting."

I absentmindedly attended the class and remained just like that until class ended in the afternoon. Once recess started I ran to the canteen and waited for Jisue. After a short wait, two purple-haired beauties appeared in front of me. Jiyan also came with Jisue. I greet them excitedly. Pulling Jisue I said: "Jisue....."

Jiyan coughed and said: "Be a little more careful, don't forget that we are still in school."

I frowned: "Why did you come with her?"

Jiyan flared up in anger: “Why? can I not come with my sister? Or do you not want to see me? Have I become a third wheel to your relationship? Don’t forget what father told you, I’m...”

EN: Raws said “your light bulb” instead of third wheel...

I turned my head, ignoring Jiyan and said to Jisue: “The incident last time....”

Jisue pressed my lips with her small hands and said: “It was all my fault, I misunderstood you. Now I understand everything. Can you forgive me?” She lowered head.

I answered with joy: “It’s nothing, just as long as you don’t part with me.”

Jiyan spoke at a side: “Where did your run off to those days? Do you how much you worried Jisue?”

I replied: “I went out to train in a deserted place, but I was not careful and I caused a qigong deviation.”

Jisue was shocked and asked: “You had qigong deviation, how are you right now?”

I stroke her head and smiled, then I said: “It’s fine now, don’t worry. Actually, I had tried to hurry back when school started, but that time i was very weak, so vice principal prepared for me a place to recover first. Now that I’ve recovered most of my power, I came back to class.”

Jiyan questioned me with dissatisfaction: “Then why did you not come to meet Jisue in the first place?”

Jisue pulled her sister and said: “It’s fine, as long as Layson came back.”

Jiyan outright said: “You silly girl, you were bewitched by this brat and now you can’t even find your ways. Be careful, don’t let it go to the point where you were so bewitched that you don’t even notice that he sold you.”

I raged at her: “Why are you so annoying, do you feel pain when you are not able to stir trouble in our relationship?”

Jiyan stared straight into my eyes and said: “I’m leaving, Layson. Watch

out, If I see you bullying my sister, I will not let you get away with it.” I lost count of how many times I’ve heard her say this to me. Seeing Jiyan leave, I said while pulling Jisue: “Let’s find a place to stay, I really missed you alot.”

Jisue nodded with her red cheeks, but within her eyes was a hidden joy: “I missed you a lot too; Let’s go there.”

I thought about it and said: “Yeah, let’s go to the stable, I haven’t seen Black Dragon for a long time, how is he?”

Jisue looked away and said: ‘Hmm. It sleeps and eats every day. When you weren’t around, I didn’t dare to release it so... it got ... fatter.”

I started pulling Jisue to the direction of the stable. When I saw Black Dragon, I said to Jisue hastily, unable to contain my shock: “IS THIS MY BLACK DRAGON?? No way.....”

# Chapter 8: Courteous to the Wise and Condescending to the Fools

Black Dragon had gotten three times fatter, and looking at me, he made an unsatisfied snort. I pet his head and said: “You lazy bastard, you only know how to eat and sleep. Look at how fat you are!”

Jisue said, “It’s about time that he exercised, he just sits there and eats. He probably can’t even run anymore.”

I smiled and said, “I’ll take you for a ride then .”

Jisue said, “Sure, just like back then.”

Ten minutes later, Jisue and I relaxingly rode Black Dragon into the wilderness outside the city. Jisue rested inside of my arms, looking deep into the distance, as if she was thinking about something important. There is an unspeakable warmth in my heart as I smelled the fragrance of her long hair.

I slowed down black dragon’s speed and embraced Jisue softly.

Jisue closed her eyes and said, “Lay, Imagine how great it would be if we could do this our entire life.”

I kissed her pinkish cheeks and answered, “Yeah, I’m also hoping that we could do that, don’t worry, I will protect you with my life. We will stay a perfect couple forever.”

Jisue looked up and stared into my eyes. Suddenly embracing my neck, she kissed me heavily on the lips. At first I was surprised, but following that, I quickly became intoxicated by Jisue’s passion.

Black Dragon suddenly let out a long neigh, and raised his forehoof high. It scared the hell out of us who were immersed in the river of love. I quickly embraced Jisue and held the rein tightly with the other hand.

Three people appeared in front us, dressed in resplendent clothes. I could tell with one glance that they came from rich families. The foppish one said, “Yo, you guys still being lovey dovey over there? Missy, can you

stand this big block?"

His words gave rise to a loud laughter from his companions.

Jisue's was so angry her cheeks reddened and she tightly gripped my clothes.

I became furious and my whole body let out an evil aura, an icy cold chill washed over them and made them shut their mouths. I sniggered and said coldly, "Are you tired of living? How dare you block my way?"

Just the last time, I went out and I slaughtered White Skye and his three hundred underlings. Due to the amount of killing I had done, my killing intent had greatly risen, so much so that it had been restored to the state it had been in when I was travelling through the beast country. I now had the urge to make those who I disliked disappear from this world, let alone those who irritated me.

The annoying one on the right raised his bow and fired an arrow at me as he said, "Why, are you pissed off? I'll shoot you. Die!"

His arrow was so slow it was almost as if a snail was crawling towards me. I plucked the long arrow from the sky, pushed down on the refined steel with a thumb, the shaft of the arrow was immediately bent into a 90 degree.

As Jisue felt my killing intent, she whispered, "Layson, please don't resort to killing, let's just leave."

That foppish head's ears were quick. he said, "Wanna leave? Not so fast. Why don't you stay around and play with us?"

I could no longer tolerate their insults against Jisue. I jumped down from my horse preparing to teach them a lesson, but right as I was going to make a move, the sound of rushed footsteps came from the surrounding far away.

The one in the middle laughed loudly and said, "My men have arrived, how will you run now?"

It sounded as if they were coming from all directions, I immediately

returned to Jisue's side and unsheathed Black Sable while looking at my surroundings, listening for a gap in their encirclement.

The one on the right said, "Second elder brother, look, that brat is scared now, haha!"

The shadows in the forest became more and more distinct, finally I could see who they were clearly. I was surprised to see an army of royal guards from the Dragon Empire. Did they figure out that I was the one responsible for the White Skye incident and come to apprehend me?

The person the middle shouted, "GUARDS, Take these two people down!!"

An officer rode out from inside the front lines of the soldiers and immediately replied, "Yes, second prince!" As he spoke, he corralled his horse into a charge aimed directly at me!

Looking at the guards skilled in riding and imposing posture, I realized that they were not easy opponents. I transferred my chi into Black Sable and slashed down at his spear. The clash of the sword and spear produced a sharp metallic sound. His attack was so powerful that my hand went numb from the collision of our weapons.

The leader of the soldiers let out a surprised "Eh?", It was obvious that he did not expect me to be able to block his assault.

I said to Jisue\*, "Snow, be careful, they are all officers ."

The troops backed away leaving a wide space in the middle of their encirclement for us to fight. I can now see my opponent clearly, his armor indicated that he was a centurion. To be able to reach such a high rank at his age, he indeed has some latent ability that surpasses all his peers.

The centurion spoke loudly with a clear voice, "Huh you have some strength, I didn't expect a commoner like you to be able to block my spear, one more time!" He immediately charged at me again after speaking.

Suddenly a majestic voice resounded, "Stop." I was shocked, this voice had obviously come from a distance, but his voice was so loud that it



sounded like he was speaking right next to me. Just the sheer power of his voice was enough to make both my opponent and I lose our balance. But what was the most frightening about this voice was that out of the crowd of soldiers encircling us, only my opponent and I were thrown off balance. I instantly knew that this was the strongest person that I had ever encountered. Even my father would have to use his full strength while fighting this person.

A tide of soldiers appeared in the distance, and an ocean of yellow soldiers was slowly approaching us. Jisue was astonished as she said, "Those are his highness's imperial carriage guards. They are his personal troops that guard him when he leaves the palace, why would they be here? Could it be that his highness is hunting today? But nobody informed me of this!

After the centurion heard that voice, like a polite and respectful student, he put his long spear away and brought his horse to a side with full courtesy.

The three foppish youngsters instantly paled, The middle one said in a low voice, "Damn it, they came at just the wrong time, why did they have to come here as well?"

The ocean of yellow slowly advanced, coming towards us. There were three people leading the soldiers. The one on the right was a handsome teenager wearing silver armor and holding a longbow. In the middle there is a middle aged man, he was wearing a black silk robe with golden armor. He left his head exposed, revealing his beautiful golden hair which hung loosely to his shoulders. Even though he didn't even seem furious, he had an imposing aura that suppressed everyone around him. I could tell that these two were related to each other. On the left, there was adorned in the uniform of a palace guard. Even though he didn't wear any armor, I could tell by looking at his insightful eyes that he was an ultimate expert.

Even a wooden log would be able to tell that the person standing in the middle was the current emperor of the Dragon Empire. He is also my uncle from my mother's side.

They arrived in front of us in no time. The person who was on the left questioned the crowd of soldiers, “What’s going on? Who are these people?” I immediately noticed that his voice was the same one that rang powerfully minutes earlier.

The centurion respectfully saluted, and answered in a respectful and cautious manner, “Sir Marshal Lantis, his second prince ordered us to capture these people.” To my surprise, the person wearing the uniform of the palace guard is one of the three greatest dragon knight of the Dragon Empire— Lantis. But his presence is understandable, after all, the imperial family is travelling, the emperor must be escorted by experts at all times.

As he heard the centurion’s report he turned to look at the king. King Zeing asked, “Second son, what’s going on here?”

The young man who ordered the guards to capture us replied haltingly, “Father, I thought that these people were suspicious, so I ordered my guards to catch them so that they could be interrogated later.” The king glanced at us, focusing on Jisue, as an experienced and wise person himself, naturally understanding the situation.

The king’s eyes blazed with fury as he snorted, “Hmph! You disobedient bastards! You only know how to eat and play and pay no attention to your responsibilities! Get Lost!”

The three foppish princes turned and ran with dejection. Before the the second prince ran away he glared at me with his gaze filled with resentment.

The king turned to us and asked, “Who are you people, and why are you here?”

Jisue suddenly spoke, “Uncle, Lantis uncle, did you not recognize little Snow\* anymore?”

Lantis carefully inspected Jisue and suddenly exclaimed, “Ah! aren’t you Jaiden’s\* daughter... Jisue?”

Jisue quickly replied, “Yup, Uncle Lantis, I am your niece Jisue.”

The king now recognized her and said, “Oh it’s little Jisue! It’s been far too long since I last saw you, uncle almost didn’t recognize you. You really are getting more and more beautiful as you grow.”

Jisue dismounted from Black Dragon while pulling me, she then knelt on floor and said respectfully, “Jisue greets your Majesty.”

I also quickly kept away Black Sable, and knelt down, saying, “This lowly commoner, Layson, greets your Majesty.”

King smiled and said, “Enough, we are family, there’s no need for these formalities. Stand up and speak.” The King paused and pointed at me, “Oh, Jisue, who is this?”

Jisue pulled me up as she stood up, her cheeks were red as she replied, “Your majesty, he is my schoolmate from Sky City academy—Layson. We came out to play today, but we did not know you were coming here, so could your royal highness please not blame us for interrupting your royal march?”

The king smiled, “Silly girl, how could uncle blame you? I hope that those good for nothing cousins of yours did not bully you. When I return, I will teach them a proper lesson.”

Jisue said, “Thank you, your majesty.”

Lantis suddenly leaned towards the king and said something softly into his ear. The king’s expression changed. He looked at me and seemed to observe carefully, as he questioned, “Are you the Layson who challenged Liwer’s son during the Sky City academy’s tournament...that Layson?”

I nodded and said, “Yes, your highness.”

The king let out a clear loud laughter, and praised, “Not bad kid! You already so strong despite your age. Continue to work hard! I hope to see you join the Dragon Knight troops in the future!”

I scratched my head and said, “Your majesty, I’m afraid that becoming a Dragon Knight is impossible for me.”

The king was surprised and asked, “Why is that? Joining the Dragon

Knights is the dream of every citizen in the Dragon Empire. Do you not wish to become a noble? Do you not strive for your country's success?"

I shook my head while explaining " No your majesty, it is simply that this lowly commoner cannot become one. I stumbled across a book of Black Magic, and happened to train in it. If I even received the opportunity to get a Dragon Mount, I would not be recognized by a single Divine Dragon. I did not dare deceive your majesty, that is why I told the truth right now.

Jisue's face turned ashen and she pinched me, indicating that I shouldn't continue. Although black magic was not forbidden in the Dragon Empire, it was taboo. That was because the 'Black Magic' that humans use are very similar to the Demon clan's 'Dark Magic' and the demon clan was the empire's most fearsome enemy.

The king frowned upon hearing my words. After thinking for a while, his eyebrows relaxed and he turned to Lantis, "This kid is still pretty good, he is very honest, keep an eye on him in the future. Even if he can't become a Dragon Knight in the future, you can still use him in other places."

Lantis nodded while saying, "He indeed has a lot of potential, with careful training and proper development, he could develop into someone with outstanding talents."

Jisue was stunned. She looked at the king idly.

The silver armoured teenager beside the king smiled and said, "Cousin, was that decision surprising? If father were to care about little things like black magic, he would not have become a sagacious king, nor would our dragon empire have developed so much."

The king was visibly pleased by these words, he laughed and said, "Well spoken. oh, Niece Snow, this is your cousin, he will inherit the throne in the future. When you have the free time you youngsters should gather and meet more often in the future."

DE: older brother cousin from the mother's side

The imperial prince jumped down from his horse and walked straight towards me. He patted my shoulder and said, "Brother Lay, hearing uncle Lantis and father's praises of you made me think that we should exchange pointers sometime in the future when we are free."

After hearing how he addressed me as "Brother Lay" my opinion of him greatly increased. Such a humble prince will certainly become a great king like his father in the future.

I quickly replied respectfully, "This lowly commoner would be honored to spar with you."

The king smiled, "Well then, you youngsters should talk some more. Come on old friend Lan, let's not disturb them. Let's go hunting! We must catch a silver fox before we return!" The king promptly whipped his horse around. He left at such a speed that not even the dust surrounding us was disturbed, he was followed by Lantis and then the troops.

Jisue suddenly spoke, "Look, those are Dragon Knights."

I looked towards where she was pointing and sure enough, gigantic colored dragons were flying through the sky shadowing us with their huge numbers. They were each at least ten meters long, and had a warrior on their back carrying a four meter long spear. Each and every one of them were awe-inspiring, and with just one look I knew just how powerful their combat capability was.

The imperial prince smiled, "It is father's royal march, there always has to be a troop of dragon knights protecting him. It is even more important that he is guarded right now because we are preparing for a war with the demon-beast alliance. We have to be a lot more cautious right now."

My heart skipped a beat, I asked, "Your highness, is the war starting again?"

The prince nodded, but his expression dimmed a little. He sighed again and replied, "Yeah, we are about to wage war again."

Jisue was surprised, she asked, "Cousin, what's the matter, why do you seem sad? Are you against the war?"

The prince answered, "Yup, waging war places a huge burden on the citizens of the country, especially those who live in the areas where our armies clash. Frequent wars will destroy the country, do you think seeing corpses everywhere is fun?"

Jisue stuck out her tongue and asked, "Then why do we still need to wage war, why can't we just live in peace?"

The imperial prince smiled and replied, "You are too naive, this war was mainly provoked by the demon clan."

I asked, "How did the demon clan provoke us?"

The prince looked at me astonished as he asked, "Brother Lay, did you not know about the sad incident that happened outside of Kuasy City?"

I awkwardly smiled and answered, "Some time ago I trained too fast and, a qigong deviation occurred, so I was recovering for a long time. It's been about half a year. I only came back to class a few days ago when my injuries healed." I intentionally exaggerated the amount of time which it took me to recover.

The prince said, "Oh I see, training cannot be rushed, brother Lay you should be more careful next time. Well about the event that sparked the war, three months ago, we received some terrible news from Kuasy city, near the capital. Kuasy Cit's count, White Skye and three hundred of his men at arms were slaughtered by someone in a single night. White Skye's body was reduced to dust, we could only recognize who he was from the various pieces of armor scattered around the battlefield.

Jisue added, "White Skye was a formidable dragon knight! It's hard to believe that he died!"

The prince nodded and said, "The opponent was definitely an expert. According to uncle Lan's analysis of the technique and skills used to kill the count, only a fallen angel from the demon clan could cause such destruction, and there's a possibility that not just one fallen angel who caused this but rather a group of them. Father was furious, and he immediately sent his messenger to make the demon clan recount it's sins, however the demon clan refused to admit responsibility. This just

increased father's fury, and he declared war against the demon clan. The demon and beast clans have been closely related and mutually dependent on each other for generations, naturally they made an alliance once again. Now the borders are full of soldiers, and fighting is as common as water and fire.

I never thought that me killing White Skye would lead to a war between the three races, oh what a criminal I am. I felt very bad in my heart, originally, I hoped to create balance and make peace between the three races using my own power, but now I've done exactly the opposite.

The Imperial Prince saw my gloomy expression and said, "Brother Lay, rest assured, I don't think this war will last very long. These wars have lasted for so long with nobody being a victor, nobody is keen to fight wars forever. I'm sure that in the next few days, they will sign an agreement. Honestly speaking, if father had wished to eliminate those two races, he could have done so long ago. With the dragon empire's power, we could crush them just by mustering some Holy Dragon Knights....." The prince suddenly covered his own mouth, he looked around, making sure that there was nobody else around. After confirming that there was no one else besides us, did he breathe a sigh of relief.

Jisue asked, "Cousin, what's the matter?"

The imperial prince laughed awkwardly and replied, "It's nothing, my mouth just slipped a little."

I laughed and asked, "What were you saying about raising some more holy dragon knights?"

The prince urgently raised his index finger and put on my mouth, indicating that I should refrain from speaking anymore. He lowered his voice and said, "This is the dragon empire's biggest secret, since you heard it today, you must forget it, if you cannot, you must not speak to anyone about this, not even to the people closest to you. If father knew you knew about it, there will be major disasters coming your way."

I asked "What's it about? Please tell us, we swear that we will never let this out of our mouth."

The imperial prince shook his head and said, "I wasn't supposed to tell anyone, only the three great marshal and my father and I know about this, not even my little brothers knows about it. Well... since I've mentioned it to you I might as well tell you the full story, however, you must not leak it to anyone else."

After seeing us pledge our agreement, the prince continued, "Well, hundreds of years ago, our ancestors united the land and formed our Dragon Empire. The Dragon Knight troops, were formed during the reign of our third king. They were composed of formidable dragon knights; humans who have trained to the blade master level. Once humans have trained to the standard above that of sword saint, their life force will greatly increase. That is why most dragon knights have a life expectancy of 200 years or so. Whenever a dragon knight reaches the age of 80 years old, they will retire and join the the Holy Dragon Knight troops. But even after retirement, the Holy Dragon Knight troops can still ride a Dragon. That is because if someone has received the dragon race's recognition once, their contract with Divine Dragon is maintained until the day he or she dies. Right now, there are 17 Holy Dragon Knights in the Dragon Empire, and each one of them is stronger than the current great marshals. The oldest has already reached the age of 170 years. Do you think that the demon-beast alliance could survive If they were to make a move?

After hearing to what he said my face was suddenly drained of its colors. So the dragon empire actually had such a powerful hidden strength as its support. Don't even mention the Dragon Knight generals, just one Dragon Knight with his gigantic dragon possessed apocalyptic destructive power. With so many powerful experts, the demon-beast alliance truly would not have the ability to resist.

Jisue asked with surprise, "Then why don't we eliminate them? Are the demon clan and the Beamon Tribe not our enemies?"

The imperial prince muttered to himself saying, "That is because, long ago, our ancestors received a commandment from God on a fortuitous occasion. God declared that every living thing had the right to live. He



will not allow us to use our full strength and upset the balance of the land. If we do, we will receive divine punishment. Because of this commandment, we have maintained the balance in the world. Every time the three great martial arts retire, they become a part of the Holy Dragon Knight troops, thus maintaining our levels of power, while hiding it from the demon-beast alliance. As long as the demon-beast alliance doesn't threaten us or do anything unacceptable, we will not actively go after and attack them."

After hearing the imperial prince's words, my heart has settled down. At least the demon-beast alliance will be able to survive. I smiled and said, "The Dragon Empire certainly has a bright future with someone as wise as you lined up to be the future king."

The imperial prince laughed, and said, "Don't tease me. Actually, I have always wanted to become a commoner so that I could travel the world with my friends like you guys. I yearn for that kind of life the most. Not one as the King."

I smiled and said, "Well it's not impossible. When we have a chance, we should travel around the land, wouldn't that be great?"

The prince smiled and said, "It's not that simple, even coming out of the palace once in a while is incredibly difficult. Since your injuries are not completely healed, I will let you get away. But when you are completely healed, we really should have a good spar. My skills aren't below those of Liwa's. Liwa is my good friend, and we spar regularly. My hands have been itching to battle you ever since I heard about you from Liwa."

I smiled, "I wish to accompany your royal highness in a spar."

The imperial prince took out a Royal Crest from his chest and threw it to me as he said, "Take this, you will need it to enter or leave the palace. You can drop by anytime. Let's spar when you have the time. I'm really lonely in the palace, I really hope to make some more friends. Sister, be sure to come as well if you have the time. Brother Lay, don't you bully my Cousin."

Jisue's face reddened when she heard the prince words.

Looking at our awkward expressions, the prince laughed and said, "I'm going to meet up with father now. You must definitely come find me. Goodbye until we meet again."

How could such a humble imperial prince not move my heart. I quickly nodded and replied, "I will definitely go to the palace to meet you when my injuries have recovered. I won't pull any punches even if you are the crown prince!"

The prince was greatly delighted as he replied, "That's what I'm really hoping for, a real opponent!" Finished speaking, he jumped up onto the horse and left at a great speed.

Looking at the silhouette of his back gradually getting smaller, I said to Jisue, "When your cousin becomes king, he will definitely bring the Dragon Empire to even higher heights."

Jisue smiled, "Yup, he has earned your respect in such a short time. It is getting late, we should head back as well."

I sighed, "They are born from the same king, but why do they differ so much?"

Jisue knew I was referring to the other three princes, and she answered, "Who knows, perhaps they were not burdened by the pressure to succeed the throne and got used to not having to bear any responsibility."

I wrapped my arm around Jisue's delicate waist and gently mounted Black Dragon, placing her in front of me. With a pull of the rein I shouted, "Black Dragon, let's go back. Woohoo!"

Black Dragon let out a long neigh, spread its' hooves and galloped quickly towards the capital.

By the time we rushed back to school, afternoon classes had begun. Jisue complained, "Every time I'm together with you, I'm forced to arrive to class late. how will you compensate me?"

I smiled bitterly and said, "I have already given you myself, is that still not enough? Anyways, I don't have classes this afternoon, haha."

Jisue lightly hit my chest and cried out, "Meanie!"

A magical broadcast suddenly rang out across the school, "Attention all students and teachers. Attention all students and teachers. There will be an all school assembly in the field after afternoon classes. Attention..." It repeated itself ten times.

I said surprised, "What's so important that the entire body must assemble to hear it?"

Jisue said, "I don't know either. Anyways, there's not much time left until school ends. Let's just wait here until classes end."

While we were waiting, we put Black Dragon back into his stable and found a shady place to rest, silently enjoying the scenery with each other.

There were only a few minutes left in class, and nearly all the teachers and students were assembled outside. Everyone was looking around, uncertain as to what was happening. It was obvious that nobody had been informed of this announcement ahead of time.

Finally, the field was full of almost 2000 teachers and students assembled and closely packed. The principal, the vice-principal and other leaders came and stood on the stage. The dean of students, Janfen shouted, magically enhancing his voice, "Students, please be silent, the principal has something important to announce, so please listen carefully."

The field slowly quieted, and the principal quickly enhanced his voice. The principal cleared his throat and said in a serious tone, "As many of you know, our country is currently at war with the Demon-Beast Alliance. This war is an excellent opportunity to train, and for this reason I have decided to send out a small team of students to support the front lines. I encourage all of you to sign up for this opportunity."

The field, which had just become silent suddenly exploded with confused shouts and whispers. But everyone was talking about the same thing.

"Isn't fighting wars the army's job? Why ask students like us? It's not

like we have to enlist.. There is no way that I am going!”

“Is going to war something fun? I still haven’t met monsters like those demons and beasts, and now I have that opportunity. The only thing is that I’m unsure about is whether it’s safe or not...”

.....

The principal shouted, “Please be quiet, don’t make a ruckus. Going to aid the frontlines is a very good chance, real battle is the only way to improve your battle sense and experience. Only by surviving through gore and fire, only by contributing your blood sweat and tears will you be able to gain true strength! As for your safety, we have already decided to let you accompany the reserve Dragon Knight troops. As for the amount of people that can go on this trip, we have limited it to one hundred people. If you wish to go on this trip, please see director Janfan to sign up after the assembly is over.”

Once again, there was a buzz of chatter amongst the students. But the principal continued, “Quiet down! There is one more matter that I have to attend to. I have a list of names of students who are required to go on this excursion. First year Layson, God dammit, why am I the first to be named. Making me fight my own people.. Isn’t this too cruel? first year Fengwan, first year Frosty.... second year Rudi, third year Jiyan...” In the end the principal named 18 people, all of them the elites of their year.

If we are accompanying the Dragon Knights, what is the difference between this trip to the front-lines and a tour of the outskirts of the empire? Isn’t it just a huge joyride? The Dragon Empire by itself is already stronger than the Demon and Beast countries combined, so why do they need student soldiers? I figured that the principal must have an ulterior motive.

The principal finally finished talking, “Those whom I named just now will stay, the other spots free to anyone who wants them. Very well, disperse.”

Immediately afterwards, the vast majority of the students rushed towards director Janfen. It seemed that everyone also figured that the trip

would involve more entertainment than danger.

We 18 people who were named in the beginning walked towards the principal. When we arrived in front of him, he said to us, "The main reason behind sending you to the front line was to increase your experience when confronting an enemy during life and death struggles. Only through cruel battle will you fully cultivate your skills. I've discussed this matter with the vice-principal, and we are going to find some easier enemies for you to deal with during your stay at the front lines. Now go back and prepare, we depart in roughly a week's time.

Fenwan and I faced each other, I saw a glimmer of excitement in Fenwan's eyes as he said, "Now that we have the chance to go to the frontline, it will be much more exciting than staying in these dry and dull classes, right, Layson?"

I smiled bitterly, "What's so fun about going to war? Isn't it all slaughter and bloodshed?"

Jiyan approached and said, "Can you go to the frontlines with your injuries?" I couldn't believe that she was concerned about me. I reasoned that she was only concerned about me because she didn't want her little sister's heart to break.

I nodded and said, "It's already almost healed, although I still lack 30-40% of power, It shouldn't affect me that much."

Jiyan lowered her voice and said, "Then be careful, I'm leaving first." Hearing her words stunned me. This was completely different from her usual self. What was wrong with her? Did she spoil her brain, or did she hit her head?

Waking up from my shock, I noticed that Fenwan's saliva had almost flowed out of his mouth while he stared straight at Jiyan's disappearing silhouette murmuring, "I would be willing to lose twenty years of my life, if she became my wife."

I slapped his face and said, "Stop dreaming. Go back to your dorm, I need to find someone."

Fenwan giggled and said, "Go find little sister."

I made an attempt to hit him, but Fenwan had already turned and run away while laughing.

I searched through the crowds for half the day, but I still couldn't find Jisue. Finally, after the enlistment was over, I heard a familiar cry. I followed the sound until I found Jisue crouching and sobbing in a corner. I hurriedly ran over and squatted down next to her, asking, "What is wrong Snow, who bullied you?"

Jisue suddenly pounced into my arms, not holding back any of her tears.

She cried so much that I couldn't make anything out of what she was saying, I asked her many times about it but she just wouldn't answer.

After a while, the front of my robe became wet with her tears, but she had she stopped crying, no doubt tired. I lifted her beautiful, weeping face like a pear blossom bathed in the rain, and asked gently "What's wrong?"

Jisue's eyes pooled with tears, and she sobbed, "Ju, just now there were just too many people, I didn't get to sign up." before she even finished her sentence, she started crying again.

I let out a breath of relief, while patting her back I said, "I thought someone had bullied you! So this was the matter... Actually, you not signing up for the exercise is a good thing! I was worried that you would be in danger if you went."

Jisue raised her head and said, "But that's not important, who knows how long it will take for you to return if you went to the frontline? It might be dangerous, so of course I would want to follow you, if not, how can I rest assured? I didn't get to sign up, I....."

# Chapter 9: Academy's Participation in the War

Jisue's words caused a warm feeling to grow in my heart. I hugged her tightly and whispered affectionately, "I know that you are worried about me, but please calm down a little. The principal just told us that there wouldn't be much danger: we are following the Dragon Knights after all. Please, don't worry, we will definitely return very soon."

Jisue disagreed, "You are going to be gone for so long, what if you are charmed away from me by the other beautiful girls? All of the top four beauties are going on this trip, and they are all prettier than me..."

I pinched her nose and said, "Don't you trust me? Well, your sister is coming alone anyways, you can make her supervise me. Do I look like someone who changes his mind on a whim?"

Jisue said, beating my chest softly, "only you can be so certain of something. Hmm... maybe I really will make my sister supervise you."

A cough came from behind Jisue. I quickly pulled Jisue up with me, thinking, "Oh, it is the Vice Principal." I smiled in embarrassment and said, "Sir, why are you here?"

The vice principal pointed at me again, whispering, "You brat, I caught you again. You are lucky that the principal hasn't seen this yet. If he had, he would have taught you both a harsh lesson! Anyways, I am here to talk to you; I am the one leading the team to the front lines."

I asked in surprise, "Aren't we going with the Dragon Knights? Why does sir need to lead the team as well?"

The vice principal sighed and said, "You guys are the school's elites, of course we must work hard to ensure your safety, and how could you be safe without a powerful teacher?"

Jisue was delighted and said: "Then sir must really look after Layson! If there's any danger, please protect him, I will be asking for person when you come back~"

The vice principal laughed, “Fine, don’t worry, I can’t possibly offend your father, he’s a duke.”

I asked, “Why did the school suddenly decide to send us to the frontline?”

The vice principal sighed, “Jisue should already know about this, but I will explain it to you Layson. A few days ago, the principal sent the elites of the fifth year to compete in a friendly tournament between the four great academies. Since Liwa had just graduated and joined the Dragon Knight troop, our academy’s strength had been greatly diminished. When the competition ended, our school was ranked last. The principal was furious; he reviewed our current teaching methods and found them unsatisfactory. He held meetings for two days trying to find ways to improve your combat strength. Finally, we decided to send you guys directly into battle. Over there, you will be baptised by the blood and flames, allowing you to become even stronger. Only by participating in a true war will you understand that the more time you spend training, the less you have to fear during a battle.”

I secretly thought to myself, “Huh, this is all bullshit. In truth they just want to uphold the academy’s reputation. Honestly, I really don’t want to go; I am afraid of confronting the beast clan. I shuddered just thinking about what would happen if father brought his beamon army to the battle. While I was interested in seeing the demon clan, that was just to compare their Fallen Angel to mine.”

The vice principal said, “Oh Layson, you should go back to your dorm and prepare yourself. Although you have recovered most of your powers, the injuries you had were not light. You should try and fully recover as soon as possible. Also, please restrain yourselves more in school. Especially around the teachers. If they see you, it would be very difficult for me to help you guys out.”

Seeing the vice principal’s shrinking silhouette, I said to Jisue: “Rest assured, this time, I will definitely return safe and sound.”

Jisue nodded and said: “The sky is dark; I should go back.” “I’ll walk you



home.” I replied.

I walked Jisue all the way to the entrance of the Duke’s mansion. After making sure that she had safely reached the mansion through the courtyard, I returned to school thinking deeply.

It seemed that my destiny was not to attend school. Over the terms, I only attended class for two months, and now I am leaving again. If I meet father during the war, should I attack him? Grandmother’s death has always pained me deep down in my heart. I will get my revenge for her death one day. Even if he is my father, I will never forgive him for what he has done. My identity may now be that of a beastman spy, but I will make my own decisions. I refuse to be controlled by anybody. I am independant, I will only do what I want.

M2: Italics is internal thought monologue

Time flew by, and in the blink of an eye, one week had passed. During this week Jisue and I were inseparable, only reluctantly parting at night. Our lovers prattle continued on for hours uninterrupted. We were stuck together like glue.

Before I left, I visited Sister Zhuang so that she could take off the bracelet she gave me. Since the bracelet had no effect on dark magic, it was useless to me. I gave it to Jisue, in return she gave me a black breastplate. It was an artifact that had been passed down for generations by her father. Even though it weighed next to nothing, it had an extremely sturdy defense. It could be joined to any light leather armours, so I can wear it easily while showing off the muscles on my robust arms. Together with Black Sable, I gave off quite the intimidating aura.

.....

The Vice Principal called, “Everyone assemble.”

The 100 students who had signed up to aid the frontline quickly lined up in the field. Every one of them wore high class white armor that the school prepared for us. At the vice principals’ command we formed a cross formation, with the vice principal in the front. He shouted, “Little brats and little girls of Sky City Academy, soon, all of you will participate

in this war, to become the future pillars of our school! Let us eliminate our enemies, and let our blood boil for the sake of defending our homeland!”

His words instantly aroused everyone’s fighting spirit, everyone in the team was shouting “Kill the enemies!!!”

The vice principal said: “Very well, let us depart, the Dragon Knight Squadron is waiting for us. To be able to fight alongside them is a great honor, now march!”

Everyone shouted in unison: “Forward!”

We marched in unison, following the vice principal as we travelled through the city, finally reaching the city entrance. We then marched a short distance to a field where ten dragon knights were waiting upon their dragons. They were charged with protecting and delivering additional soldiers and the needed supplies to the battlefield. The supplies consisted of all kinds of defensive equipments and arrows, while the soldiers consisted of eleven hundred guards and us students. Since these supplies and reinforcements were much needed at the battlefield, Dragon Knights were assigned to protect them from ambushes and prevent them from getting lost.

For many students, it was their first time seeing a Dragon knight, so naturally they were all very excited. Some started to boast loudly about their accomplishments, hoping the Dragon Knights would notice them. While others quietly set the Dragon Knights as their goal, hoping to become one through their own strength.

The whole team had completely assembled, Jiyan was standing next to me; she had coaxed and pestered the vice principal unceasingly to let her stand by my side. All the other students were very jealous, but I just secretly mourned in my heart. The academy prepared horses for us. My horse was of course, Black Dragon, the vice principal arranged for me to be in the back of the formation, while Jiyan was on my left.

After travelling around a hundred miles away from the capital, Jiyan asked, “Layson, did your injuries recover?”

I replied plainly: “Almost. What do you want from asking about it?”

Jiyan glared at me, “Why, can’t I just ask without a reason? Don’t forget, I’m here to supervise on behalf of Jisue. If you treat me badly, I’ll tell Jisue and she’ll ignore you.”

Geez I really can’t understand her. I had to get this straight, “ Sister what exactly do you want? You insisted that you ride next to me, instead of joining the female team, making me the enemy of every single male in this group. Just look at their eyes, every single one of them looks like those of a tiger or wolf.”

Jiyan chuckled softly and said, “Are you scared? Why do you treat me like this? Well, anyways I’m purposefully acting like this, and there is nothing you can do about it.” Her smile was like that of a hundred flowers in bloom. Although her beautiful smile stunned me, her words made my face go stiff. I looked to the side, ignoring her. After all, Jiyan was an unsurpassed beauty, I couldn’t let her looks move her heart, or how could I face Jisue?

The day passed very quickly, and it was soon time to set up camp. The vice principal and the chiliarch of the eleven hundred soldier troop talked to each other for a while before deciding on an area to set up our encampment. They finally decided upon a clearing in a closeby forest. The Dragon Knights didn’t even look at us, the just rested by the edges of the clearing, making sure that there were no threats to us.

Everyone sat around the campfire, as it warmed us down to our bones. Jiyan sat down next to me and took out a small box from her bag and passed it to me saying, “This is for you, it’s something good~”

I received the box from her, opened it and took a look inside. Inside was surprisingly, a delicate pastry! I frowned and said: “Thank you, but I can’t accept this, you should eat it yourself.”

Jiyan curled her lips, turning to me and saying, “this was personally made by Jisue, if you don’t want it then forget it, give it back.” She reached out and tried to take it back.

The moment I heard that Jisue made it, I immediately kept the box of

pastry to my side, and said: "Since Jisue gave me this, how can I let you take it back?"

Jiyan did not tease me any further, and she promptly took out a piece of fruit from her bag and began to eat. I carefully put a small piece of the pastry in my mouth. The pastry had a slight aroma of rose, and the fragrance quickly spread throughout my mouth. It was impossible to call this pastry anything but delicious.

When Jiyan looked at me, her eyes showed a trace of gentleness.

After everyone had finished eating, the vice principal instructed us to return to our tents. I smiled at Jiyan asking, "Do you wish to sleep with me as well? If so, I won't oppose you, hehe."

Jiyan's face flushed, and said while covering her face: "You have no shame." However before running to her tent she said, "You look very good when you smile."

I couldn't help but shake my head after hearing what Jiyan said. I felt that Jiyan had changed a lot recently, she no longer felt like cold, proud, and aloof woman she was when we first met. Instead she seemed to want to stay close to me. I should keep my distance from her, I don't want to create another misunderstanding between Jisue and I.

I ducked into the tent, and Fenwan said to me, "Man you really did it, you killed two birds with one stone. You had Jisue, but you couldn't give up on Jiyan either, and now you have two of the school's top beauties. Impressive, impressive indeed."

I attempted to slap him, but Fenwan blocked with his hands. I scolded while smiling: "Don't talk nonsense, if Liwa heard of this, he would seek me out for a death match! Are you trying to kill me? Really there is nothing between Jiyan and I, she is just concerned about me because Jisue asked her to look after me. Do you think I wanted her to follow me everywhere? She annoys me to death, she wouldn't let me get a moment to myself. The only times I got some privacy were when I went to the bathroom, and when I came here to sleep! She was stuck to me like a rice cake. She seemed really devoted to her 'duties' \*sigh\*."

Fenwan chuckled with amusement, “That’s because Jiyan and her sister have a good relationship, so how could she explain it if you ran off with one of the other girls on the team”

I said. “Humph, do I look like that kind of person to you? Stop spreading baseless rumors, you are almost as bad as Fenyun!”

Speak of the devil, we heard Fenyun chuckling from outside the tent, “Who was gossiping about me? I bet it was all lies.” Fenyun lifted the curtain to the tent and entered. The tent was made for only one person, after Fenyun sat down, we could barely move a finger.

I replied, “I was talking about Fenwan’s ability to create rumors has almost reached your level.”

Fenyun looked surprised, staring at Fenwan, and said, “How come I was not informed of this brother? To think that you were secretly training in my peerless god level skill.” Fenyun’s comment made us immediately burst into laughter.

Fenwan softly said, “Too bad we don’t have any alcohol, if we did, we brothers could secretly drink a few glasses and enjoy ourselves.” He even belched after saying this.

I asked, “Since when did you become a drunkard? Is the taste of alcohol really that great?”

Fenwan nodded repeatedly and said, “Alcohol is an essential drink of life, the more you drink, the younger you become. Did you not know about this fact?

I shook my head, I have never enjoyed alcohol. I usually avoid the drink except for a few special occasions. The taste did not interest me, it just burned on the way down your throat, nothing that was particularly special.

Fenyun suddenly stuck half his body outside the tent without warning. We couldn’t see what he was looking at. Startled, Fenwan asked, “What are you doing?”

Fenyun came back inside and raised his index finger to his lips. He said,

“Shhh, be quiet, look at this!” As he spoke, he held out a small flask in front of our eyes.

Fenwan’s eyes instantly brightened, and asked with delight and surprise: “Where did you get all that alcohol?”

Fenyun smiled smugly while saying, “Hehe, I’m in the magic department, so I requested someone in the class to bring some with him in an interspatial pouch. Hehe, what do you think? I’m pretty good at thinking ahead, right?”

Fenwan nodded repeatedly, snatching the wine flask from Fenyun. He said, “That is great, come, let us drink!” As he opened the flask, a rich sweet fragrance swept over us. Fenwan couldn’t hold himself back and he took a long swig from the flask. When he finished drinking, his face was full of glee and he exclaimed “Great!” He then passed the flask to me and said, “Here, have a drink!”

I was going to refuse, but looking into his ardent eyes, my heart softened, and I couldn’t refuse. I took the flask from him and took a swig. The alcohol burned my throat as I swallowed it and caused me to cough repeatedly. Fenyun smiled saying, “Layson Brother, am I seeing things? I can’t believe that a robust guy like you doesn’t even know how to drink!”

I smiled awkwardly and said, “Unlike you guys, I don’t drink myself into a stupor every day.” As I spoke, I felt a strong heat gush up from my stomach, heating my internal organs comfortably. I became excited, and I guided the heat to an injured meridian channel alongside some mad god chi. Unexpectedly, the previously fractured meridian channel was healed a little. I was pleasantly surprised, and drank a little more alcohol. Fenwan moaned, “Drink slowly, I didn’t bring that much!”

I said with a serious expression, “This wine seems to have a healing effect on my meridian channels, let me try again.” After taking another two gulps of the wine, I passed the flask to Fenyun and closed my eyes, training.

Using my own power, and that of the two sips of strong alcohol, in one night, I managed to dredge out a meridian. I was surprised, with that

channel dredged, I had successfully recovered seventy percent of my original power.

The next morning, I woke up to Fenwan's questions, "How was it? Was it helpful to your injuries?"

I nodded and replied, "I never even thought that alcohol could have this kind of effect, it actually healed one meridian channel, and recovered some of my powers."

I immediately grabbed Fenyun's shoulder and sincerely said, "Brother, thank you."

Fenyun laughed and said: "Since we are brothers, there is no need to say anything, let's go, we have to depart soon, let's quickly pack up the tent."

.....

Although I had insulted Jiyan last night, it seemed as if she had forgotten about it after sleeping. She still rode her bayhorse by my side, occasionally glancing at me. These glances made me feel extremely awkward. I frowned and asked, "Why do you keep looking at me? is there a flower on my face?"

Jiyan smiled and said, "There isn't a flower, but your complexion seems to have improved. It even seems like your skin has been moisturized."

I didn't dare tell her that I recovered my meridian channels using alcohol, as alcohol was strictly forbidden on this trip. So I plainly said, "I just recovered my powers a little last night."

Jiyan was delighted and said, "That is great, you should continue! Recovering your powers is the most important thing at the moment." She seemed to be more excited than I was, she really was a woman who worshiped power. But was that really the case?

TL: words in italics and bold were meant to be there. It was not by me nor my editors.

After 10 days of camping, I had drunk half of Fenyun's wine. In this period of time I had miraculously recovered all of my powers. I was quite

satisfied, I had recovered all of my meridian channels and my body was filled to the brim with power. Fenyn and the others said that just my presence emitted a powerful aura.

Every night I would train a considerable amount of my Mad God and Demonic Arts. Fenwan said that I was a nutcase, training everyday. However he didn't know that the best way for me to rest was to train. During these training sessions I did not hope to breakthrough any levels, I just wished to help my previously injured meridian channels get stronger, and consolidate my tier three Demonic and Mad God arts. Only by solidifying the basics is improvement possible.

Since we traveled in a carriage, our journey, which usually takes twenty days, took us about a month. We finally arrived at the fort, Stelu Fort, which was built at the edge of Stelu City. The commanding officer of this fort was Liwa's father, Dragon General Liwo. According to the vice principal, this base had a total of 60 Dragon Knights, including the ten who escorted us here. Making this the largest stronghold of the Dragon Empire. There were 10 infantry corps, five cavalry corps, 5 heavy cavalry corps, and 8 magician corps. Each corp consisted of thirty thousand troops and the total number of all the corps together was close to one million people. One could say that the entirety of the Dragon Empire's power was concentrated here. The remaining borders of the Dragon Empire were supervised by the reserve forces. As of now, there was an uninterrupted stream of reserves coming to the front lines.

Regarding individual fighting ability, humans weren't only inferior to demons, but also inferior to beastmen – who were born natural fighters. However, since humans have powerful magicians as well as dragon knights as their shield, maintaining their advantage was an easy task.

The Dragon General Liwo welcomed us himself, along with Liwa who had just transferred here.

Liwo guided us to his mansion, and held magnificent welcoming feast for us. Naturally, Liwa sat with us, nobody would fight Liwa to sit next to Jiyan. I noticed that Jiyan treated me much better than she treated Liwa. Whenever he tried to approach her, she turned a cold shoulder.



The Vice Principal sat with all the high ranking officers of the army at the top of the hall. They were all graduates from Sky City academy, and from the way they conversed excitedly we could tell that our future prospects were not bad either.

I glanced at Liwa who had put all his body and mind onto Jiyan, and asked the question that had been pressing my mind the most, “Liwa, how’s the situation at the front-lines?”

Liwa stalled for a second before replying, “As of now there haven’t been any large scale battles yet, there have only been small probing attacks. However the beastmen tribe has sent their Beamon army forces to join the main army. If they initiate the attack, I’m afraid that we would have to dispatch some dragon knights to fend them off. But don’t worry, you all are my juniors, when the times comes, we will definitely arrange for easier opponents for you to handle.”

Besides I, who had sunk into deep thoughts and Jiyan, who was absent-minded and therefore wasn’t paying attention; all the other people thanked Liwa: “Thank you senior for taking care of us.”

Liwa asked Jiyan, “Why did the school send you guys to the frontlines?”

Jiyan rolled her eyes at him and asked, “Why would I know, ask the Vice Principal yourself.”

Liwa was rebuffed, he then said to everyone, “Everyone, feel free to eat anything, help yourself, I and my personal guard hunted these animals nearby and brought them back for the feast.

Fenwan asked: “Senior Liwa, I heard that you have already received a dragon’s recognition, and have become a real dragon knight, can you tell us about the gigantic dragons?”

Fenwan’s question immediately aroused everyone’s interest.

Liwa smiled, said humbly: “Actually it’s nothing much, you all will have a chance to see him soon, the dragon that has acknowledged me is a wind element high speed dragon, we rely on its’ speed to attack enemies, and it’s wings are it’s best weapon.”

A school member from the third year said: "I really admire you, senior, it would be great if in the future, we could also possess a giant dragon!"

Liwa laughed and said: "Not just you guys that hope so, the country hopes that even more so, the more dragon knights the stronger our dragon empire will become." Liwa's words revealed an intention that was a notch above others, although it didn't say much about anything, but everyone can tell that he was arrogant from the look of his face.

Liwo arranged for us all to stay in the Stelu Fort. These quarters showed how important we were to the General. After five days of rest, we had our first taste of a real war.

The Vice Principal brought us to the top of the wall of the fort outside the city. Liwo stood beside us and continuously gave out orders. The fighters of the three great races blotted out the sky and covered the lands. The Vice Principal explained the battle to us "Everyone, look closely, the main forces of the Beastman Tribe consist of Heavy Armor units to defend against attacks and Cheetahmen Assault Troops to attack. Their trump card is the Beamon Army and the Royal Beast Wild Lion Army. The Demon clan uses a combination of attacks from all kinds of races. Their most powerful soldiers are the Dark Magicians and Fallen Angels.

Liwo commanded his army, "Dispatch orders; the Third, Sixth and Eighth Infantry Units shall immediately go to support our left wing of heavy infantry. Second Light Cavalry Unit, charge, cut straight into the center of their Magician Unit. Fourth and Fifth Magician Units, support them with all your firepower!"

The battlefield was filled with all kinds of magical spells, flying out in all directions. The battle continued throughout the entire day. At the end of the day, our losses numbered 10,000, but the Demon-Beast Alliance suffered even larger losses. There seemed to be a tacit agreement that day not to send out each side's trump cards.

Each of the 100 students that came to the battlefield, excluding me, were horrified. But it was not their fault, all of them were students younger than 20, who had never seen such a bloody scene. The fort was

like a meat mincer, and deaths piled up outside the walls minute after minute. As the war had been going on for many years, there were next to no prisoners of war, those who didn't make it back at the end of the day were likely dead.

I had killed hundreds of people with my own power, so I was used to seeing such gory scenes, and I didn't mind seeing the slaughter going on below us. Even Jiyan who stood next to me, vomited multiple times and called me cold blooded.

The Vice Principal made us stand in formation, and said to us in a grave tone, "Today, you all experienced a real war. In a battle, being merciful to your enemy means you forfeit your life. Only by taking your opponent's life as soon as possible will you survive. I spoke to Liwo during today's battle, and tomorrow you all will participate in the war! I will not protect you! Whether you come back alive is up to your own strength!"

The vice principal speech caused a panic among the students, everyone realised that war is not a game; it is completely different from the drill training at school. Jiyan's face had become deathly pale, I tried to reassure her saying, "Tomorrow, if you follow me, there won't be any problems."

Jiyan looked at me with confused eyes, but nodded lightly.

A student asked: "Vice principal, can we not participate in this war?"

The vice principal angrily shouted, "Do you think this is a game? Since you voluntarily signed up, you should have prepared to participate in this battle. Right now, you aren't a student of the Sky City academy, but also a unit of the Dragon Empire's army, deployed to resist the invasion of foreigners! To be a coward is to be the most disgraceful and shameful person in the army! Do you understand? If someone ever asks of to be exempt from the war, they will immediately receive punishment equal to that of military law." The Vice principal was red in the face as he finished his tirade. While he was harsh, I understood why he wanted us to participate in war. We could only experience real growth through real battles.

After dispersing, I called my brothers, Fenyun and Fenwan, to my tent, and said to them: "Tomorrow will be our first time participating in a real battle, make sure you guys do not panic. Remember, as we start to engage the enemy, quickly separate to my sides, I will handle the enemies in the front, while you guys will be responsible for those on the two sides, while Jiyan will support us with magic from the rear. Attack boldly! The Vice Principal was right cannot show any mercy."

Fenwan nodded and said, "Boss, we will definitely come back alive tomorrow!"

Fenyun who had been larky the entire trip also became serious, he said: "We three brothers will survive this together!"

Fenwan and Fenyun were truly sincere to me, of course I will do what it takes to protect them. Jiyan is Jisue's sister, and also a beauty, I will also protect her. But I can't afford protect anyone else, the others in the class must survive by relying on their own strength. With my powers now, there should be nothing to fear of as long as the Demon-Beast Armies don't dispatch their strongest troops- the trumps cards.

I walked outside, appreciating the pure moonlight, suddenly, I heard the sound of an argument close by, listening carefully, I overheard Jiyan and Liwa talking fiercely.

# Credits

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